

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*The Nation's
Library*

WASHINGTON, D.C.



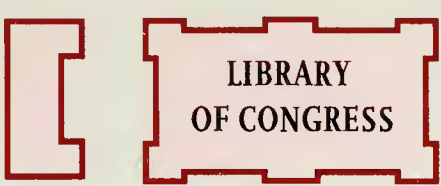
The Library of Congress, founded in 1800, began as a purely congressional library; but over the past two centuries, as the United States itself has grown and assumed an important role among the community of nations, the Library's collections and services have expanded as well. Today it is the world's largest library, serving not only the United States Congress, but also other libraries and individual researchers—both in the United States and around the world.

The Nation's Library, a collaboration between the Library and Scala Publishers, is a celebration of, and a guide to this complex institution—one of the greatest cultural and intellectual resources in the world. Succinct and informative text, punctuated by lavish color illustrations, leads the reader through the Library's history and present-day organization and services. Sumptuous photographs of the Library's three buildings on Washington's Capitol Hill—including the original Library building, an architectural treasure opened in 1897—are interspersed with views of some of the eclectic treasures housed in this repository of international culture. These include founding documents of the American Republic, Japanese fine prints, Arabic calligraphy, rare illustrated books, maps, music and musical instruments, posters, comic books, architectural drawings, hallmark documents in the history of science, and historic photographs.

For those who will visit the Library in person or via the Internet, the book also includes information on the subject areas in each of the Library's 22 reading rooms, hours of operation, general procedures for conducting research in the Library, and on the ever-expanding Library of Congress Web Site. *The Nation's Library* thus makes the Library's storehouse of knowledge immediate and accessible to people around the world.



EAST CAPITOL



LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

Adams Bldg.

SECOND ST. S.E.



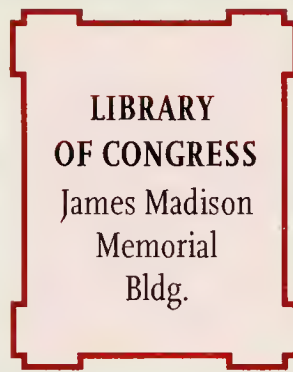
U.S. Supreme
Court



LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

Jefferson Bldg.

INDEPENDENCE
AVENUE S.E.

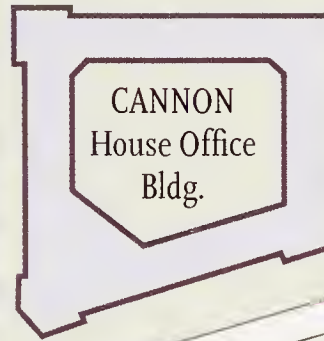


LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS
James Madison
Memorial
Bldg.

C. ST. S.E.

D. ST. S.E.

FIRST ST. S.E.



CANNON
House Office
Bldg.



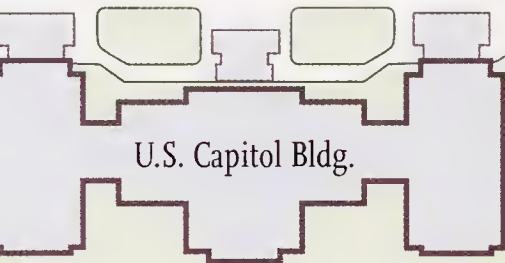
H.O.B.
Annex 1

Capitol
Subway
(Orange
Line)

NEW JERSEY AVENUE S.E.

LONGWORTH
House Office
Building

SOUTH CAPITOL STREET

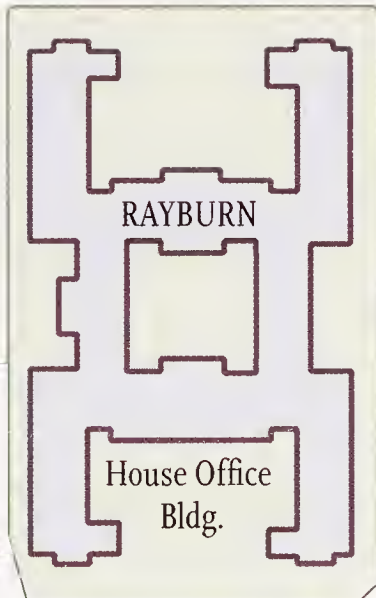


U.S. Capitol Bldg.

W

SW

INDEPENDENCE
AVENUE S.E.



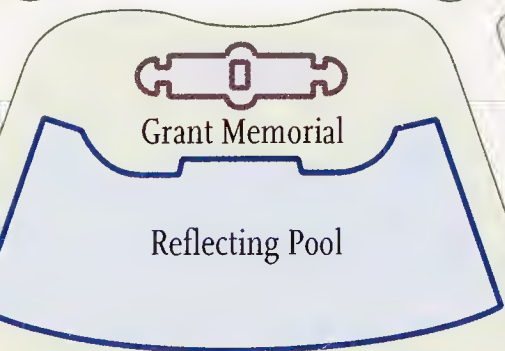
RAYBURN

House Office
Bldg.

DELAWARE AVE.

CANAL

FIRST STREET S.W.



Grant Memorial

Reflecting Pool

MARYLAND AVE S.W.



U.S. Botanic
Gardens

INDEPENDENCE



Federal
Office Bldg.

DELAWARE AVE.

CANAL

NORTHBOUND LANE

SOUTHBOUND LANE

SECOND STREET S.W.




F.D.A.
Bldg.



H.O.B.
Annex

THIRD STREET S.W.



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THE NATION'S LIBRARY
The Library of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

LIBRARY OF CONGR





THE NATION'S
LIBRARY

*The Library of Congress,
Washington, D.C.*

Alan Bisbort and Linda Barrett Osborne

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Front cover: The dome of the Thomas Jefferson building,
Library of Congress, capped by the torch of knowledge,
shares the Capitol Hill skyline with the white dome of
the United States Capitol. Photograph by Carol
Highsmith.

Inside front cover: Map of Capitol Hill, showing the
three Library of Congress buildings.

Back cover: A staircase in the Great Hall, Thomas
Jefferson Building. Photograph by Anne Day.

Inside back cover: Schematic diagram of the Thomas
Jefferson Building, by Doug Stern.

Frontispiece: The Commemorative Arch in the Great
Hall, Thomas Jefferson Building (detail). Photograph by
Anne Day.

*For Lois Korzendorfer (1948–2000), reference librarian,
Library of Congress*

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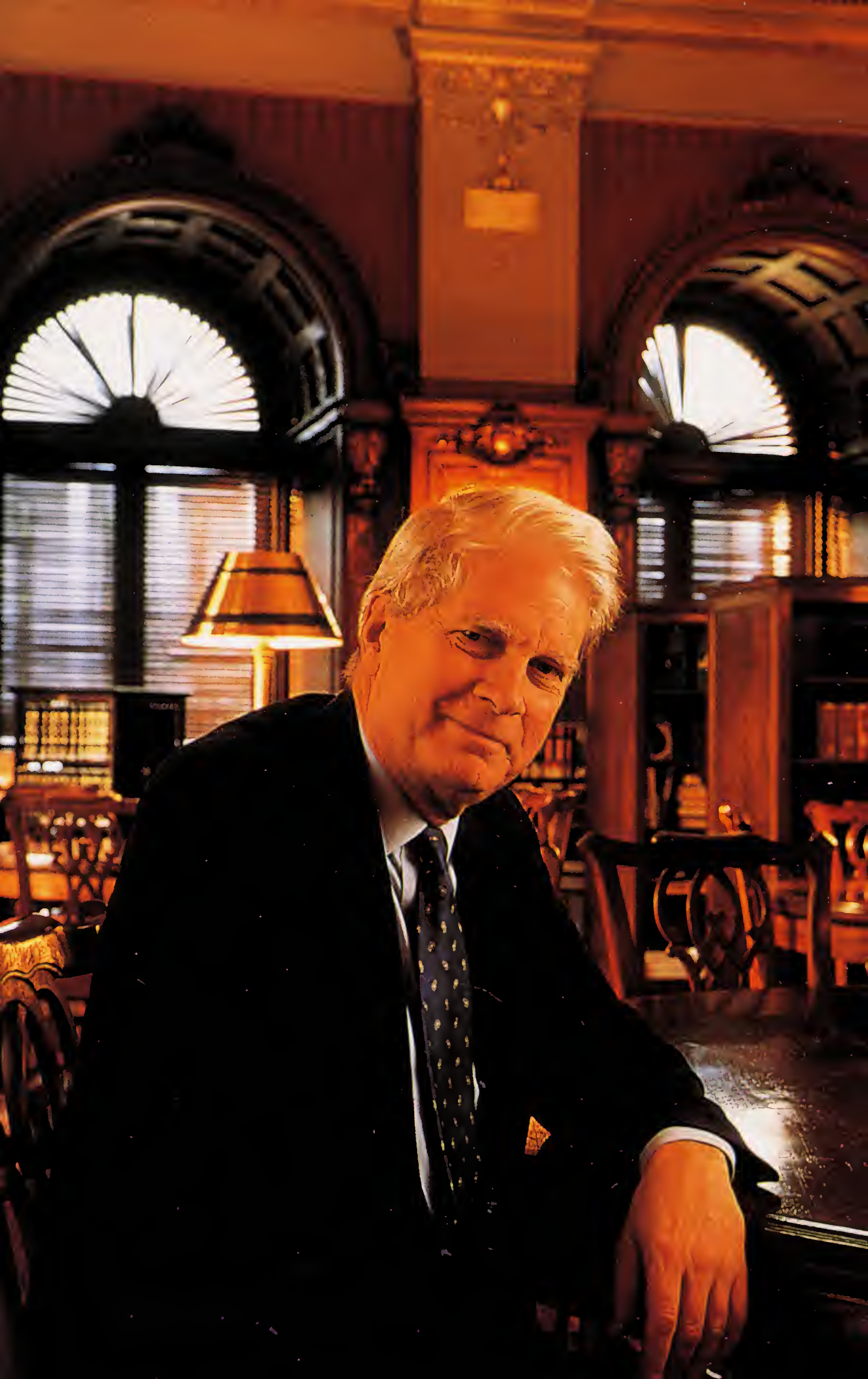
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Foreword

The Library of Congress: A Brief History



Foreword

previous page

An array of books from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division encompasses poetry, magic, politics, history, and popular literature. Photograph by Carol Highsmith.

Two hundred years ago, the United States was taking its first steps toward becoming a great democratic nation. Born out of revolution and filled with an unyieldingly independent spirit, the new country was guided by an extraordinary group of people whose ideals had been shaped by the precepts of the Enlightenment—among them, reliance on reason, belief in progress, and profound appreciation of the importance of knowledge in an ever-changing world. “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance,” James Madison wrote in 1822. “And a people who mean to be their own governours, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge brings.”

In 1800, the Congress of the United States established a Congressional Library to help provide it with the information required to administer this boisterous and expanding land. Under dedicated Librarians of Congress and Library staff, the Library expanded and became not only a resource for Congress but also the national library of the United States and one of the world’s greatest intellectual and cultural resources. The initial collection of a few hundred books and three maps has grown into diverse collections numbering over 119 million items—and we continue to acquire thousands more each year.

James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress. Photograph by Roger Foley.

Woman Reading a Book by Gilles Demarteau (1722–76). Fine Prints Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.



Treasures humble and sublime are housed within the Library’s three buildings: 4,000-year-old clay tablets concerning the Sumerian economy are cared for here, as are fifteenth-century illuminated manuscripts, sixteenth-century holograph music scores, seventeenth-century scientific treatises, eighteenth-century fine prints and political cartoons, nineteenth-century dime novels and illustrated books, and twentieth-century televi-

sion shows, movies and CD-ROMs. Reflecting America’s history, as well as this country’s membership in the community of nations, our collections come from around the world. Researchers from abroad are welcomed here along with the hundreds of thousands of

Americans who visit our buildings—their buildings, and their collections—each year. Around the globe, millions more visit us each day via the Internet: as the twenty-first century begins, more than 5 million items from our collections are accessible on our Web pages, and this will increase. Entering our third century of service to Congress, the nation, and the world, the Library of Congress continues to be guided by the belief in the power of knowledge that inspired its creation.

The Nation's Library is a guide to this great and complex institution, outlining its history, collections and current organization, its activities and services. The book's numerous illustrations, drawn from our collections, comprise a celebration of the light human beings have brought to their often shadowed and uncertain world. The Library of Congress has a proud history of preserving and reflecting that light. We invite you to visit us—in person, via this book and our other publications, or on the Internet. We hope you will share this priceless legacy.

James H. Billington

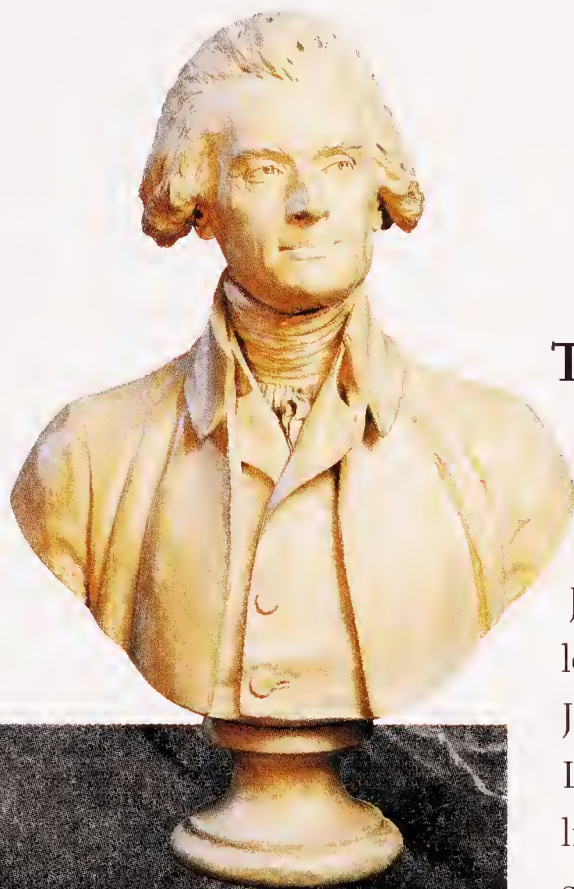
The Librarian of Congress

*Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826).
by Jean-Antoine Houdon,
Great Hall, Jefferson Building,
Library of Congress.
Photograph by Reid Baker.*

*John Adams (1735–1826).
Lithograph after a painting
by John Singleton Copley.
Presidential File, Prints and
Photographs Division.*

*James Madison (1751–1836).
Watercolor miniature portrait
by Charles Willson Peale. Rare
Book and Special Collections
Division.*

The Library of Congress: A Brief History

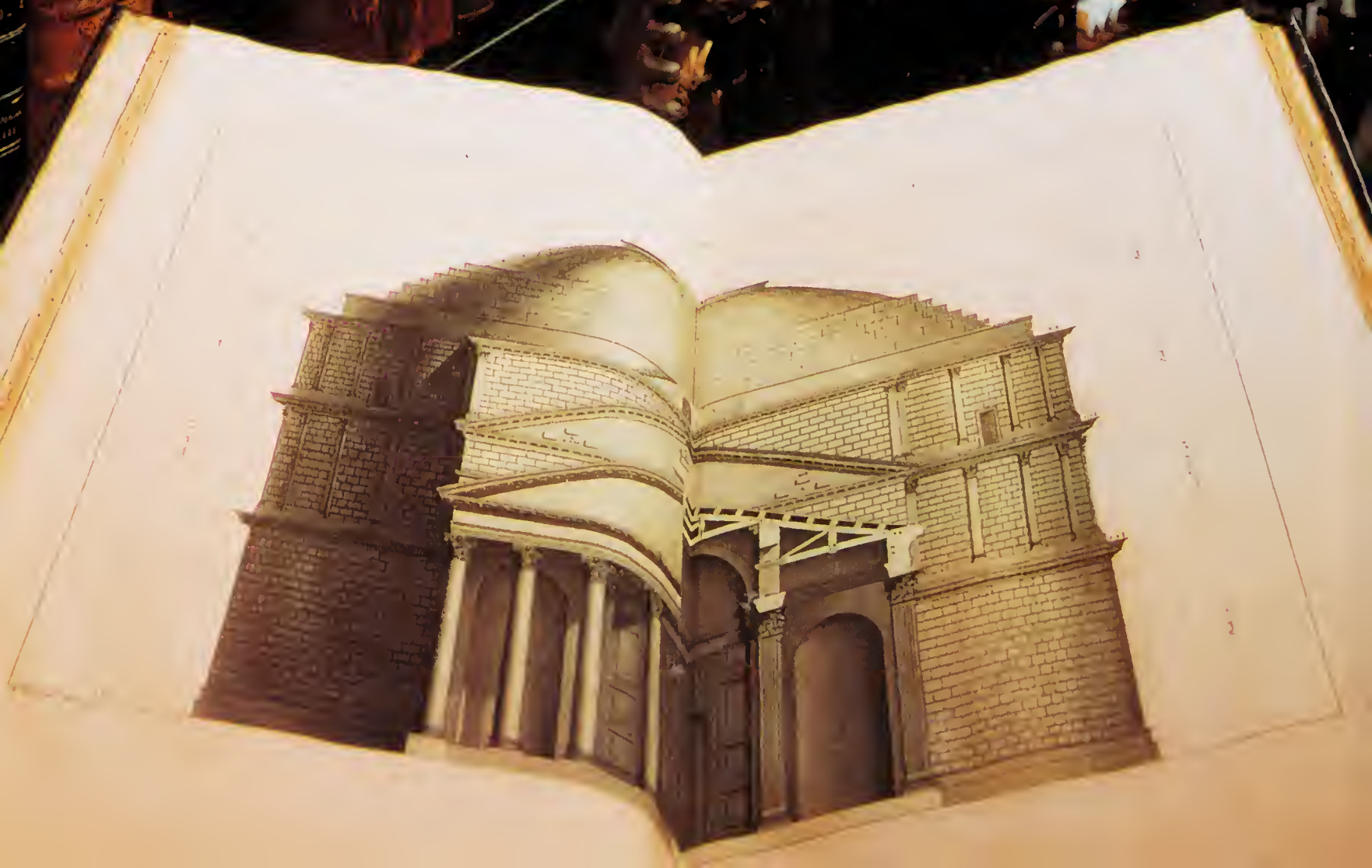


Thomas Jefferson's name is inextricably linked to the Library of Congress, having been bestowed upon the majestic main building that sits opposite the U.S. Capitol. But Jefferson was one of three prime movers for a legislative library after the War for Independence. John Adams and James Madison—for whom the Library's other two buildings are named—were, like Jefferson, devoted bibliophiles who understood the need for a solid intellectual framework on which to build a new nation. Adams, a farmer's son, owned 3,000 books which he studied so that, he wrote, "my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy . . . in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music." Madison steeped himself in the classics and was the first to suggest, in 1783, that a library be available to members of Congress. Jefferson's love of books is legendary, and the Library owes its very existence to his personal collection and its inventive cataloging scheme. Both Jefferson and Adams were dele-



gates to the 1774 Continental Congress in Philadelphia—although Jefferson was, in the end, unable to attend. One of the first acts of this Congress was to secure access to the Library Company of Philadelphia's book holdings.

Thus, the creation of "a Library for Congress" on April 24, 1800, by an act of Congress, was the realization of a shared vision embodying the highest



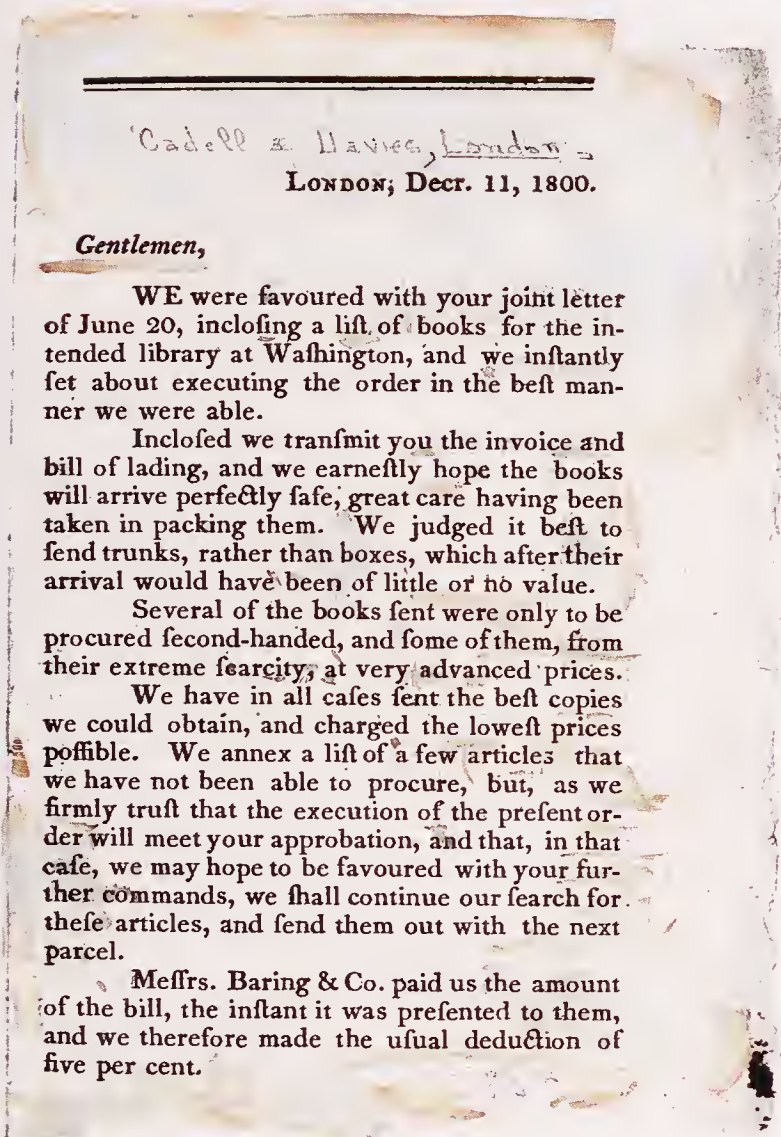
Enlightenment ideals. President John Adams approved the act, and \$5,000 was appropriated for the purchase of “such books as may be necessary,” to be housed in the U.S. Capitol in the new District of Columbia. By 1801, the Library had 740 volumes and 3 maps, all purchased from a London book-seller, Cadell & Davies.

In 1802, the collection numbered 964 volumes, 9 maps and charts. By 1812, there were 3,000 volumes, covering a range of subjects, including law, literature, history and agriculture.

The Library was intended to be legislative, a “library for the use of both Houses of Congress.” Until moving to a separate building in 1897, it was popularly known as the Congressional Library. Few then would have dreamed that it would become the *Nation’s* Library and one of the world’s greatest cultural institutions. In fact, the Library’s very existence was threatened soon after it was established when, in August 1814, British troops set the U.S. Capitol ablaze, destroying the three-thousand-volume Congressional Library—partly in revenge for U.S. troops burning the Parliamentary Library of Canada in 1813. Jefferson had retired to his Virginia home, Monticello, after serving two terms as president.

Concerned over the Library’s destruction, and heavily in debt, he offered to sell his personal library, one of the largest in the nation, though for a fraction of its value. The sale was approved for \$23,950, and the 6,487 volumes were brought by ten horse-drawn wagons in May 1815 from Charlottesville to the Library’s temporary home (until 1818) in Blodgett’s Hotel on E Street, N.W.

A cultured man, fluent in Greek, Latin, and French, Jefferson believed that human nature was universal and history provided insight into current events. Of his personal library, he said, “I do not know that it contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from the collections; there is, in fact, no subject to which a Member of Congress may not have occasion to refer.” The acquisition of this library, and adoption of Jefferson’s philosophy, together changed the scope of the Congressional Library. As John Y. Cole, director of the Library’s Center for the Book, has noted, “The Jeffersonian concept of universality, the belief that all subjects are important to a Library of the American legislature, is the philosophy and rationale behind the comprehensive collecting policies of today’s Library of Congress.”



The Cadell & Davies letter of December 11, 1800, preceding the printed invoice which constituted the first printed catalog of the Library of Congress. Manuscript Division.

A portion of Thomas Jefferson's personal library housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, with a volume of the architect Palladio, who was much admired by Jefferson, open in the foreground. Photograph by Reid Baker.

The Library's collections and services expanded gradually. The Congressional Library did not evolve into a national institution until after the U.S. Civil War, and the Library of Congress did not become a viable research library until after 1900. While Jefferson, Adams, and Madison had set the tone, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the sixth Librarian of Congress (1864–97), implemented their acquisitive

philosophy, and Herbert Putnam, the eighth Librarian of Congress (1899–1939), shaped the institution into a leader in American librarianship.

By 1867, Spofford, a former Cincinnati bookman, had turned the Congressional Library into the nation's largest library, due to the deposit of 40,000 volumes from the Smithsonian Institution and the purchase of an unrivaled trove of Americana, the 62,000-item library of Peter Force. By 1870, Spofford had convinced Congress to revise an old

copyright law, the new law requiring anyone claiming copyright on a book to send two copies to the Librarian within ten days of publication.

The former head of the Boston Public Library, Putnam used his four-decade watch to begin services to libraries, such as centralized cataloging, and to acquire world-renowned collections. Also during his tenure, private benefactors were encouraged to underwrite the expense of making the Library of Congress the nation's greatest public cultural institution. The combined efforts of these two Librarians saw the collections grow, between 1865 and 1939, from 70,000 books to 6 million, the staff from seven to 1,100, and annual congressional appropriations for the Library from \$300,000 to over \$3 million.

To accommodate this transformation, the Library had to expand physically. The Congressional Library, located on the same floor of the Capitol as the House and Senate chambers, was indispensable to government proceedings. Often, in the heat of battle, congressmen stormed off the floor, ran to the Library, and returned to the fray armed with the precise bit of wisdom needed to sway the debate. But the Library was soon filled floor-to-ceiling with publications, and the clutter spilled over into the attic and along the basement corridors of the Capitol, then to the staircases and first and second floor hallways.

By 1880, Spofford was warning of fire (this time caused without British assistance). In fact, two fires had already occurred, in 1825 and 1851, the latter destroying 35,000 volumes, including two-thirds of Jefferson's personal library. Arguing for a safer, separate building, Spofford also played on congressional and national pride in those expansive days of the Gilded Age by touting the advantages of establishing a "temple of learning" that would celebrate the uniqueness of American civilization.



A view of the West Front of the Capitol from Pennsylvania Avenue, about 1857. The Library of Congress occupied the space behind the pillars, at the center of the West Front. Prints and Photographs Division.



This reproduction of a watercolor by W. Bengough shows the Library of Congress when it was located in the Capitol, with Ainsworth R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, standing on the extreme right, looking at a paper. Prints and Photographs Division.

One of the drawings submitted in the design competition for the “proposed Congressional Library, Washington.” This grand conception, by architect Alex R. Esty (1826–1881) was more ornate than the chosen design. Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, Prints and Photographs Division.



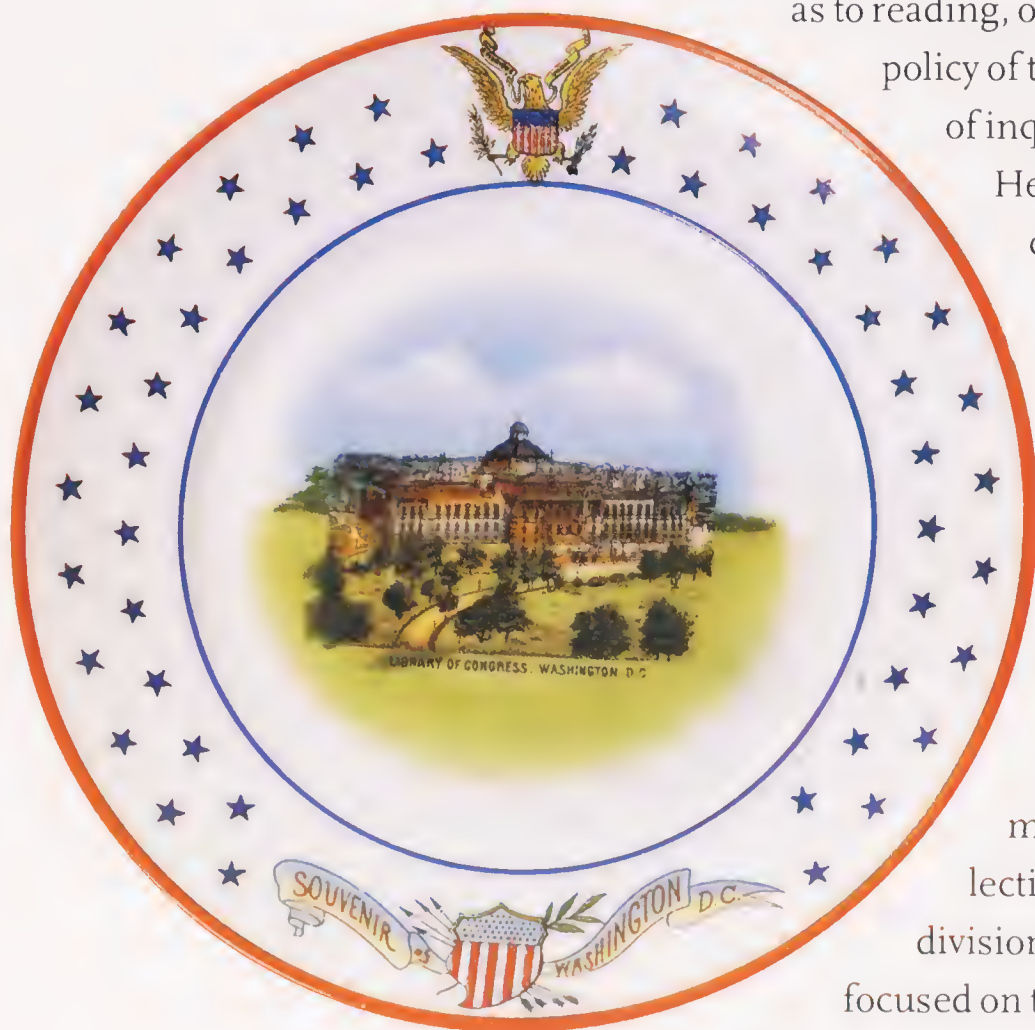
It was not an easy sell, since no other buildings besides the Capitol were on “the Hill” at the time. It took Spofford over twenty-five years to succeed. He proposed the separate Library building in 1871, Congress authorized it in 1886, and the building was opened in 1897.

Spofford’s conception of the new building was based on the national libraries of Europe, particularly the British Museum Library, and the architects picked up the theme, vowing that “the National Library . . . should be more a museum of literature, science, and art, than strictly taken as a collection of books.” It would be “the mecca of the young giant Republic.” Spofford pushed for expanded hours of operation and declared the new building would serve both the Congress and the American people. When the building opened, on November 1, 1897, it was called the Library of Congress. Some people referred to it as the new national library.

Millson



The opening of its first separate building marked a new era for the Library of Congress. “Twenty years ago . . . the Library was sought for a specific book,” Librarian John Russell Young wrote in the Library’s 1898 *Annual Report*; “today applicants ask advice as to reading, or request information. It is the policy of the Library to encourage this spirit of inquiry.” When Young died in 1899, Herbert Putnam took up his democratic gauntlet, beginning what became an institution-shaping tenure. A Harvard graduate and son of a renowned publisher, Putnam proved equal to the challenge of serving two new constituencies—the public and the library profession. First, he separated the special format collections (e.g., maps, prints, music, manuscripts) from book collections, making them available via new divisions and reading rooms. Second, he focused on the pressing need for centralized cataloging for American librarianship. Finally, he



amassed spectacular collections at a pace nearly equal to that of the tireless Spofford.

Putnam incorporated the new Copyright Office into the Library's operation and sought to unify the functions of the new curatorial divisions. Also during his tenure, the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board—the first such body in the federal government—was created to administer the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation and all future endowments. (Named for one of the most notable patrons in the history of American music, the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation was established for the promotion and advancement of chamber music through commissions, public concerts, and festivals.)

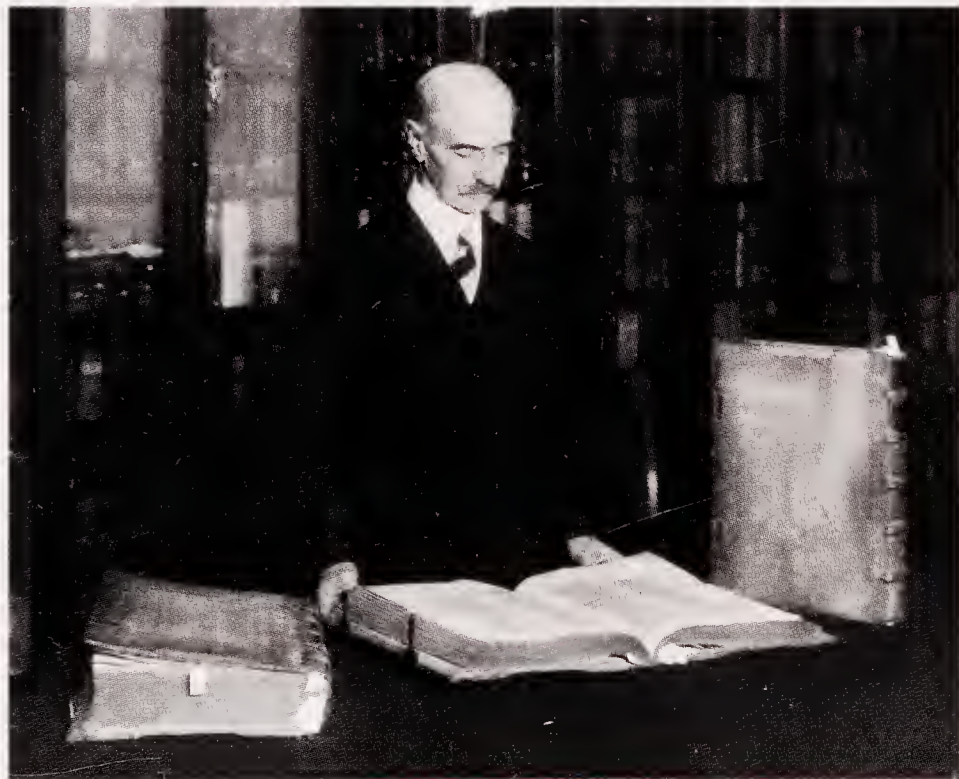
Continued growth of collections and services required the construction of two additional Library buildings on Capitol Hill. The John Adams Building (1939) opened during Archibald MacLeish's tenure as Librarian, and the James Madison Memorial Building (1980) during Daniel Boorstin's term. Other Library facilities

opened over the years include the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Performing Arts Library at the John F. Kennedy Center (since closed), several overseas acquisitions offices (in New Delhi, Cairo, Rio de Janeiro, Jakarta, Nairobi, and Islamabad—collecting materials from more than sixty countries), and storage facilities in Maryland and Virginia.

Currently, the Library's 532 miles of shelf space house 119 million items, in formats as old as papyrus and as new as CD-ROMs, and in 460 languages;

the collections expand by approximately ten items every minute. During the two centuries that it has taken to amass these treasures, the institution itself has grown into a Jeffersonian model of intellectual openness and cultural interchange, sharing its collections and services as widely as possible. Among the many inscriptions on the Library walls, two on the second floor of the Jefferson Building's Great Hall may best describe the Library's mission. In the North Corridor, looking toward the U.S. Capitol, is a quotation from Cicero: "Memory is the treasurer and guardian of all things." In the South Corridor, facing the same direction, are the words of Virgil: "The noblest motive is the public good."

Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam, examining one of the three volumes of the Gutenberg Bible. Prints and Photographs Division.



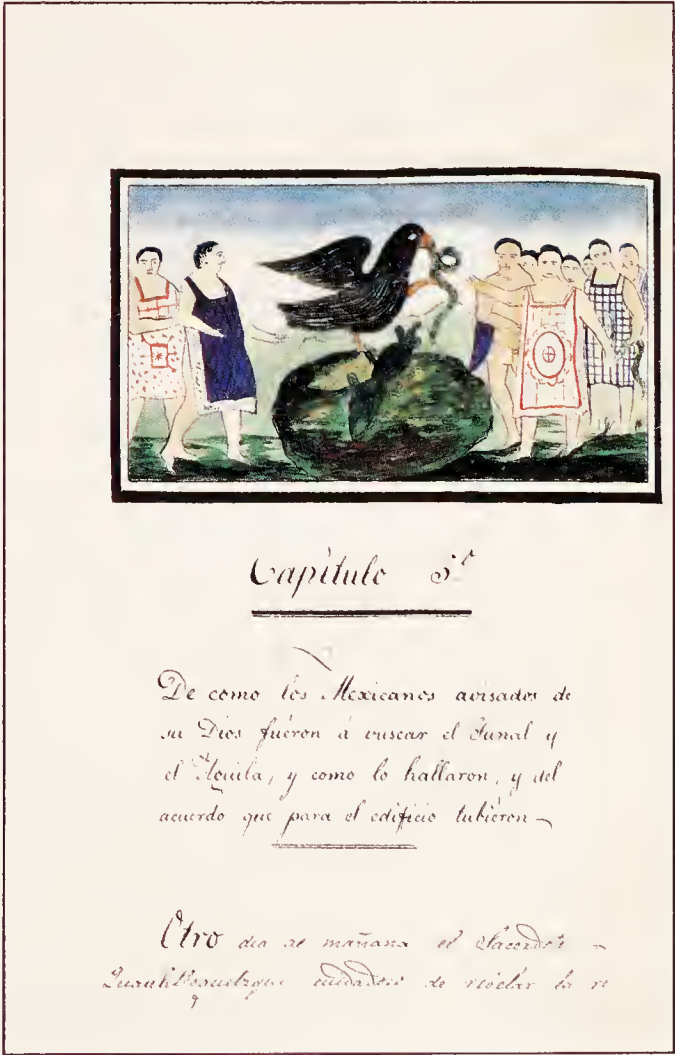


Among the 100,000 fine prints held by the Library is this Meiji-era preliminary sketch of a warrior-conqueror. The red ink shows the artist's corrections. Japanese Print Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

“Building” the World’s Largest Library

- 1837 The Library Committee of the U.S. Congress authorizes the first exchange of official publications with foreign nations.
- 1867 Through the Smithsonian Institution’s document exchange system, the Library receives public documents published in foreign countries. The library of Peter Force is purchased for \$100,000 and becomes the foundation of the Library’s Americana and incunabula collections.
- 1869 The emperor of China sends 933 volumes to the U.S. government, a donation that forms the nucleus of the Library’s Chinese collection.
- 1870 All U.S. copyright registration and deposit activities are centralized at the Library.
- 1882 A law authorizes the donation of the 40,000-volume library of Washington, D.C., physician Joseph Toner to the Library of Congress. Sen. John Sherman of Ohio calls it “the first instance in the history of this government of the free gift of a large and valuable library to the nation.”
- 1884 A gift of 375 volumes from Sultan Abdul-Hamid II of Turkey establishes the Library’s Turkish collection. Each volume is inscribed on the cover, in three languages, “To the national library of the United States of America.”
- 1898 The Gardiner Greene Hubbard collection of engravings, the Library’s first major collection of fine prints, is donated by his widow, Gertrude M. Hubbard.

Items acquired by the Library with the Peter Force Collection include Diego Durán’s *Historia Antigua de la Nueva España* (1581). Shown is the frontispiece from Chapter V “Which treats of how the Aztecs, counselled by their god, went to seek the prickly pear cactus and the eagle and how they found them. And about the agreement they made for the building of the city.” Manuscript Division.






Daguerreotype portrait of former U.S. First Lady Dolley Madison (1768–1849) by Mathew B. Brady, circa 1848. Brady-Handy Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

- 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt orders the transfer, from the Department of State to the Library of Congress, of the records and papers of the Continental Congress and the personal papers of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.
- 1904 The Library purchases a 4,000-volume collection of Indica, formerly the library of Albrecht Weber, professor of Sanskrit at the University of Berlin.
- 1905 The Library begins a program for copying manuscripts in foreign archives that relate to American history.
- 1906 The Library purchases the private library of G. V. Yudin of Siberia, which contains over 80,000 volumes of Russian literature.
- 1907 The Library makes its first large acquisition of Japanese books, 9,000 volumes selected in Japan by Kan-Ichi Asakawa, a Yale University professor.
- 1908 The Library purchases, from Albert Schatz of Rostock, Germany, his renowned collection of over 12,000 early opera librettos.
- 1912 A collection of 10,000 items of Hebraica, gathered by Ephraim Deinard, is donated to the Library by Jacob H. Schiff of New York City.
- 1913 The American Printing House for the Blind begins depositing in the Library of Congress one copy of each embossed book that it produces with federal financial assistance.
- 1920 Over 300 daguerreotype portraits of prominent Americans made between 1845 and 1853 by the studio of Mathew B. Brady are transferred to the Library from the U.S. Army War College.
- 1927 Archer M. Huntington of New York City presents the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board with funds to establish an endowment “for the purchase of books relating to Spanish, Portuguese, and South American arts, crafts, literature, and history.”
- 1930 A law authorizes the purchase for \$1.5 million of the Volbehr collection of incunabula, which includes one of three perfect vellum copies of the Gutenberg Bible.
- 1934 The Library becomes the repository for photographs and drawings from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). Uruguayan poet Emilio Oribe records one of his poems at the Library, inaugurating the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape.

- 1943 The Library announces the gift of a “magnificent collection of rare books and manuscripts” from Lessing J. Rosenwald of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. The Library purchases more than 9,000 negative plates and photographs by pioneering photographer Arnold Genthe.
- 1944 The Library assumes custody of the Office of War Information collection of nearly 300,000 photographs, including the “photo-documentation of America” file organized by Roy E. Stryker in the Farm Security Administration from 1936 to 1942.
- 1945 The Library purchases the personal library of Sheikh Mahmud al-Imam Mansuri of Cairo, which contains over 5,000 books and manuscripts and greatly strengthens the Arabic collections. The Library establishes a “mission in Europe” to obtain “multiple copies of European publications for the [WWII] period” for distribution to American libraries and research institutions.
- 1949 The papers of Orville and Wilbur Wright, 30,000 items, including 303 glass-plate negatives documenting their trials with the new flying machines, are donated to the Library.

Poster calling for the apprehension of suspected conspirators in Abraham Lincoln’s assassination. Broadside Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

following page
 Contents of Lincoln’s pockets on the night he was assassinated, and, from the Alfred Whital Stern Collection, a newspaper reporting the assassination.
 Rare Book and Special Collections Division.
 Photograph by Roger Foley.






SURRAT.

BOOTH.

HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,

 **\$100,000 REWARD!**

THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,
IS STILL AT LARGE.

\$50,000 REWARD

Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's Accomplices.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL REWARDS will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

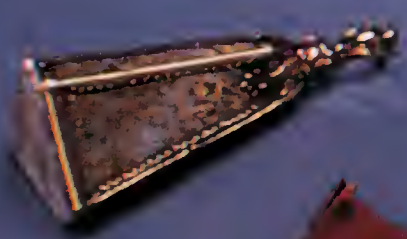
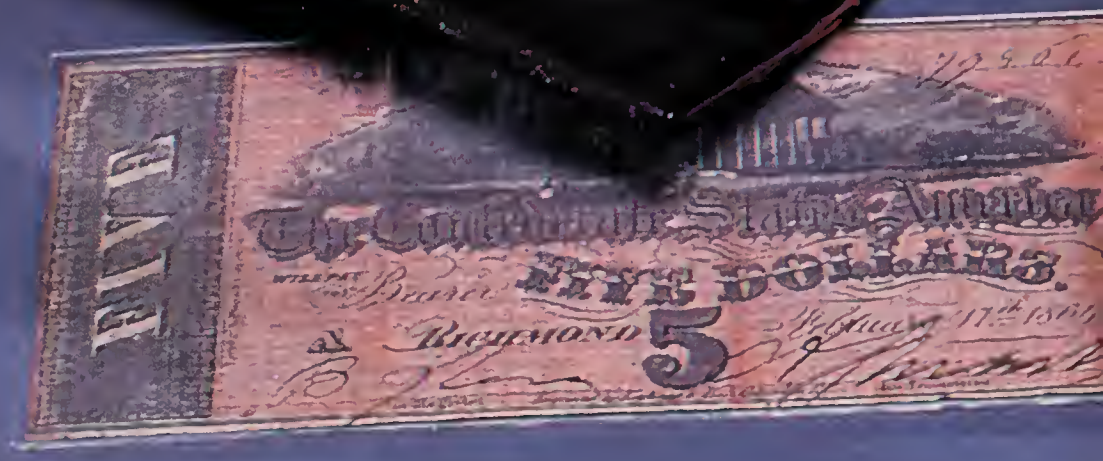
EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

DESCRIPTIONS.—BOOTH is Five Feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black mustache.

JOHN H. SURRATT is about 6 feet, 0 inches. Hair rather thin and dark; eyes rather light; no beard. Would weigh 145 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clear, with color in his cheeks. Wore light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; cheek bones rather prominent; chin narrow; ears projecting at the top; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Part of his hair on the right side; neck rather long. His lips are firmly set. A slim man.

DAVID C. HAROLD is five feet six inches high, hair dark, eyes dark, eyebrows rather heavy, full face, nose short, hand short and fleshy, feet small, instep high, round bodied, naturally quick and active, slightly closes his eyes when looking at a person.

NOTICE.—In addition to the above, State and other authorities have offered rewards amounting to almost one hundred thousand dollars, making an aggregate of about **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**



President Lincoln
Shot by an
Assassin.

Assassin
The Deed Done at Ford's
Theatre Last Night.

THEATRE LANE
THE ACT OF A DESPERATE REBEL
Attempted Assassination
Secretary Seward.

Secretary _____
 Rumored Attempt on the Life
 of Mr. Stanton.

DETAILS OF THE DREADFUL TRAGEDY

W. A. MURPHY, 1905; Friday, April 14, 1934, A. M.
The President was shot in a theatre at
night, and is, perhaps, mortally wounded.
Secretary Brown was also assassinated.
CROOKED DEBATE.
... Friday, April ... with

RECORD DISPATCH.
WASHINGTON, PM, April 21.
President Lincoln and wife, with other
guests, this evening visited Ford's Theatre
witnessing the perfor-

It was announced in the papers that Gen. Grant would also be present, but he took no part in the proceedings.

The theatre was densely crowded and everybody seemed delighted with the late train of cars for New Jersey.

The audience was
everybody seemed delighted with
before them. During the third act, and
there was a temporary pause for one
here to enter, a sharp report
which was heard, which merely
conveying nothing

...to enter, a
...was heard, which merely
...nothing

White House at the time, and he was
related to him that he was well, but
although Mrs. Brown had announced that Gen.
Cass was the paper had announced that Gen.
Cass and they were to be present, and, as
Gen. Cass had gone North, he did not wish
the audience to be disappointed.
He went with apparent reluctance and
Mr. Corvay to go with him; but that Gen.
Cass had made other engagements, and
Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, told him
the excitement at the time.

When the excitement at the theatre at its wildest height, reports were circulated that Secretary Brown had also been assassinated.

On reaching this gentleman's residence a crowd and a military guard was ascertained that he was not at home, and on entering it was ascertained that the reports were based on truth.

Everybody there was so excited that scarcely any reliable word could be gathered:

the reports were banal.
Everybody there was so ex-
tremely intelligent that
the facts are substantially as follows:
About 10 o'clock a man rang the bell
and the call having been answered by
a colored servant, he said he had
come from Dr. Ward,
family physician, with a prescription, and
the same time holding in his hand
a small piece of folded paper, and
saying in answer to a refusal that he must
see the Secretary, & he was entrusted with
directions concerning the medicine.
going up, although re-
no one

April 14-1865 A.M. ... saying in am.
shot in a theatre to ... see the Secretary, & he
mortally wounded. ... particular directions concerning
was also assassinated. He still insisted on going up, although
D. DISPATCH. ... He repeatedly informed that no one
Washington, Friday, April 15. ... The men
and wife, with other ... and walked
reaching visited Ford's Theatre ... Mr.
one of witnesses the perform- ... toward the Secretary's room
of American Consul ... was then ... he den
announced in the papers that Gen. ... of whom making
the present, but he took ... the Secretary, he did
Jersey. ... representation which he did
and ... What further passed in the ... but the m
ill

...America
announced in the papers
could also be present, but he took
train of cars for New Jersey.
Theatre was densely crowded, and
audience seemed delighted with the scene
before them. (During the third act, and while
there was a temporary pause for one of the ac-
tors to enter, a sharp report of a
gunshot was heard, which merely attracted at-
tention to nothing serious, no)

representation
What further passed in the
not known, but the
the head with a "bill"
the skull and selling
The assassin then
and attacked M

REPORTS
RECEIVED
JANUARY 1907

NEW-YORK

The President is reported to be scouring the country for every direction for the murderers with excitement and the city is overwhelmed with no one knows who the assassins were no one knows though every body supposes them to have been rebels.

FROM RICHMOND.

Richmond, Va. Jan. 10, 1865.

FROM RICHMOND.

FROM RICHMOND.
Present Feeling in Richmond—Call to the
People of Virginia to inaugurate a new
Legislature—Charges of the Father and Son
Administration of Gen. Wehner and Repre-
sentatives of the People—Condition
of the People—Mrs. Gen. Lee.

From Our Own Correspondent.
HARRISON, Va., Thursday, April 13, 1855.
The effect experienced by all who
have been exposed in the furnace of war
is, that the people are gradually
being convinced that all
the dreams of the

From Ocala, Fla.
The stunning effect up in the
The themselves which have just swept over
The world has nearly ceased, becoming convinced that
regarding their scenes, becoming convinced that
they have seen and heard was not a wild dream
reality, and the frenzy of joy ever past
the crisis when the circuiting
the land, that Lee's remnant
the field, will
who have so long been chafing the
of daily conflict to the
the far less brilliant and stirring
the new and more vigorous
have not yet heard of the
wandering herds of "Trans-
thing is already so far
of all men hereby
really don't believe the
less fragments of the
attempt will effect
business more than
Florida disarrang
New York or Bu
Things are
the published
to the Wa
various
to Rich
Wyn
Seward, Paymaster
attacked

A close-up photograph of a book's binding. The spine is visible on the left, showing some wear and a small label with the number '100'. The main body of the book is a dark, textured material, possibly cloth or leather.



Plywood chairs, sketches of various views. India ink drawing by Ray Eames. Charles and Ray Eames Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

- 1950 Chicago businessman Alfred Whital Stern donates to the Library “the most extensive collection of Lincoln literature ever assembled by a private individual.”
- 1954 The Library acquires the Brady-Handy photographic collection, containing more than 3,000 negatives by Civil War photographer Mathew B. Brady and several thousand plates made by his nephew, Levin C. Handy. The collection is donated by L. C. Handy’s daughters.
- 1964 The Library receives the first installment of the gift of the records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an archive of 1 million items.
- 1969 The Library acquires the Charles E. Feinberg collection of Walt Whitman manuscripts, letters, books, and memorabilia, comprising more than 20,000 items.
- 1975 The papers of Alexander Graham Bell and his family are donated to the Library.
- 1978 The Library receives the NBC Radio Collection of 175,000 transcription discs covering 80,000 hours of radio programming from 1926 to 1970.
- 1988 The Moldenhauer collection of autograph music manuscripts, letters, and documents, one of the most significant collections of primary source materials in music ever assembled, is donated to the Library, establishing the Hans Moldenhauer Archives. The National Film Preservation Act of 1988 requires the Library to choose and preserve up to twenty-five “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” films in a National Film Registry each year.
- 1989 The James Madison Council is established, an advisory board of business people and philanthropists who contribute ideas, expertise and funds to support the Library’s collections and programs.

One of the unusual items that came to the Library with the Marian S. Carson Collection is this “peepshow book” [Trafalgar Square, London, 184?]. Offering a choice of viewing from three different angles, the book may have been a souvenir from the years soon after Nelson’s Column was completed in 1843. Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Photograph by Edward Owen.

- 1989 The Library acquires the Charles and Ray Eames Collection of design, including more than 700,000 papers, drawings, photographs and transparencies, graphics, and motion pictures.
- 1992 The Library acquires the Irving Berlin Collection of more than 750,000 items, including the musical scores of many of Berlin’s most popular compositions. This year, the 100 millionth item is added to the Library’s collections.
- 1993 The Library obtains congressional approval to make its bibliographic data and services available on the Internet.
- 1997 Library staff numbers 4,474 employees.



- 1999 The Marian S. Carson Collection, comprising more than 10,000 manuscripts, photographs, prints, drawings, books, and broadsides from the Colonial era through the 1876 Centennial celebration becomes the Library’s most significant acquisition of Americana in the twentieth century.
- 2000 The Library receives 22,000 items each working day and adds 10,000 items to the collections daily—most are acquired through the Copyright registration process. Library of Congress collections now comprise more than 119 million items.





The Thomas Jefferson
Building

The John Adams Building

The James Madison
Memorial Building



The Thomas Jefferson Building

The Thomas Jefferson Building stands atop Capitol Hill, facing west and commanding a view across First Street to the U.S. Capitol. Of the three Library buildings on “the Hill,” this ornate Italian Renaissance structure, crowned by a copper dome and the gilded Torch of Learning, is the most recognizable. One of the most beautifully decorated buildings in the United States, it is a dazzling expression of American art, architecture, and self-confidence. Situated on ten acres and two city blocks—bounded by First and Second streets, East Capitol Street and Independence Avenue—the Jefferson Building and its grounds were originally planned as a continuation of the park-like elements of the Mall and an extension of the Capitol Grounds.

Known as the Library of Congress (or Main) Building until June 13, 1980, the Jefferson Building was designed both to house America’s



national library and to showcase the art and culture of the growing Republic. While the grand scale of the architecture was inspired by the national libraries of England and France, the decoration was American-made. It was modeled on elements in the structures housing the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, an international event that celebrated American cultural achievements.

previous page
Thomas Jefferson Building facade, facing the U.S. Capitol. Photograph by Carol Highsmith.

left
Interior of the Main Reading Room, Thomas Jefferson Building. Photograph by Jim Higgins.

right
A view of the World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893. Prints and Photographs Division. Photograph by Frances Benjamin Johnston.

following page
The domes of the Thomas Jefferson Building (left) and the U.S. Capitol dominate the Capitol Hill skyline. In the distance: the Washington Monument. Photograph by Jim Higgins.







Stone masons in their workshop preparing materials for the first separate Library of Congress building.
Photoduplication Service.

Many artists who worked on the exposition also worked on the Library of Congress Building, though there was one crucial difference between the projects: the exposition was a private venture, and the Library of Congress Building was the first public building the federal government had authorized to be built, and adorned, on such a massive scale. As Herbert Small, author of the *Handbook of the New Library of Congress in Washington* (1897) noted, "Commissions were here given to nearly fifty sculptors and painters, all Americans, and their work, as shown throughout the building, forms the most



interesting record possible of the scope and capabilities of American art.”

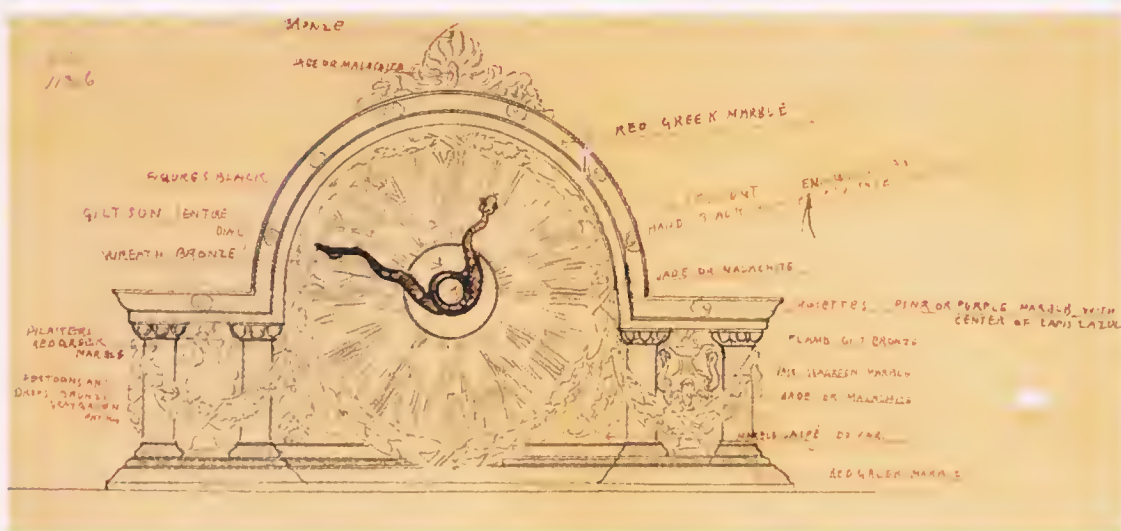
The Jefferson Building is a testament not only to American artisans, but also to the hundreds of American laborers who began clearing the site in October 1886, laid the foundation in September 1889, and completed the structure in 1897, and to the extraordinary efforts of the engineers, who stayed on schedule and below budget. Indeed, the beautifully landscaped setting and the architecture befit a building that was proclaimed, as it opened its doors to the public,



*Color sketch for the Minerva mosaic by Elihu Vedder on the second floor of the Jefferson Building's Great Hall.
Photograph by Jim Higgins.*



John Flanagan's deceptively simple plan for a clock in the Main Reading Room was the basis for a magnificent finished timepiece. Photograph of the finished clock by Anne Day.



the “national Temple of the Arts.” Ainsworth Rand Spofford, who, as Librarian of Congress (1864–97), had been the moving force behind the building’s construction, said in an address to the Literary Club of Cincinnati in 1899, “The removal to that airy and spacious edifice was like being suddenly translated from purgatory into paradise. I call it ‘the book palace of the American people,’ in which you all have equal rights with me.”

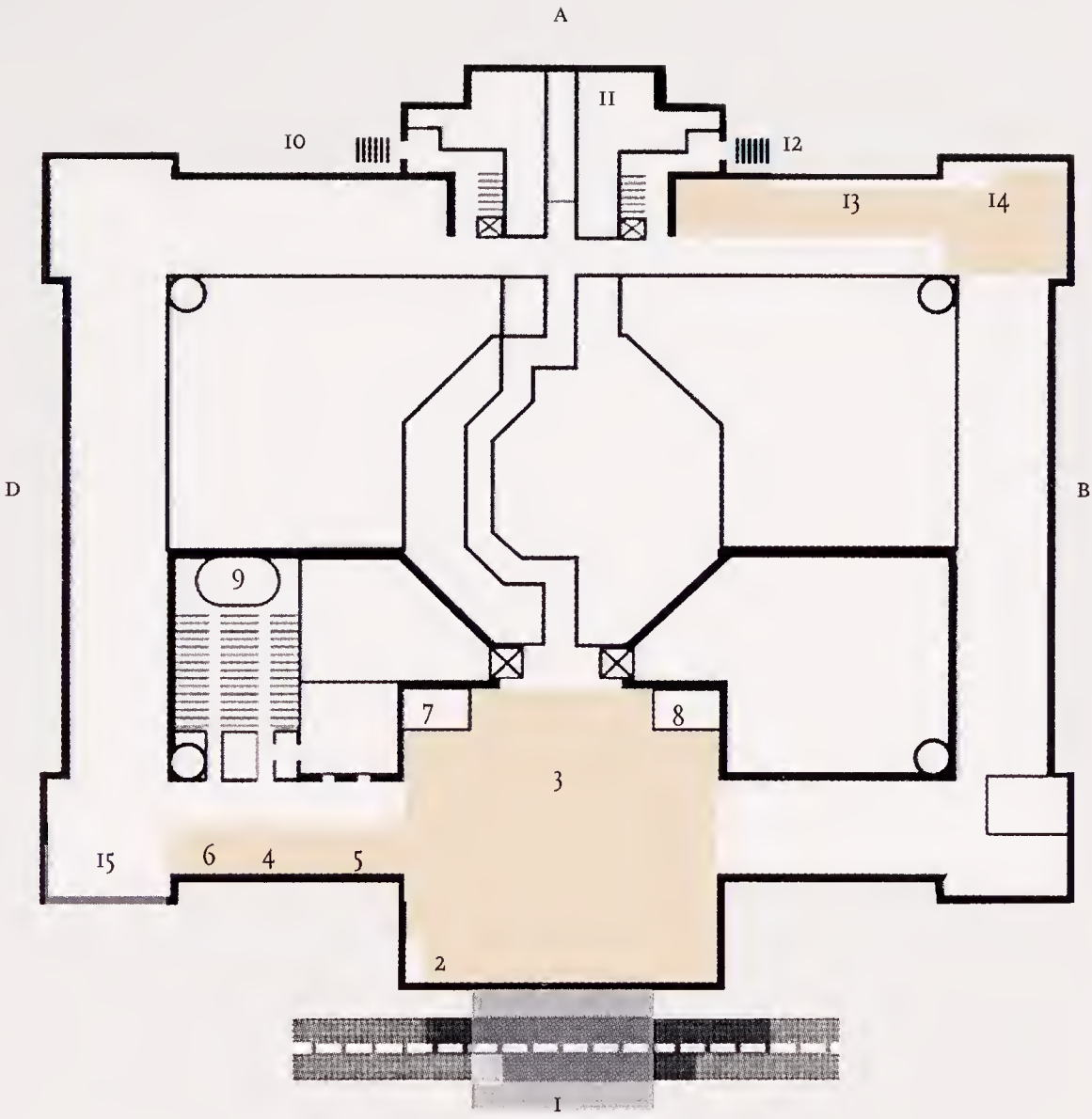
John L. Smithmeyer and Paul J. Pelz were the original architects of the Library of Congress Building, having been awarded the \$6 million appropriation for their Italian Renaissance design in 1886. But they did not complete the project. Smithmeyer was dismissed in

The Thomas Jefferson Building

Ground floor

- 1 Visitor Entrance
- 2 Sales Shop
- 3 Visitors' Center
- 4 Swann Gallery
- 5 Visitors' Theater
- 6 Gershwin Room
- 7 Men
- 8 Women
- 9 Coolidge Auditorium
- 10 Staff Entrance
- 11 Cloak Room
- 12 Researcher Entrance
- 13 Local History & Genealogy Room G42
- 14 American Folklife Center Room G49
- 15 Bob Hope Gallery

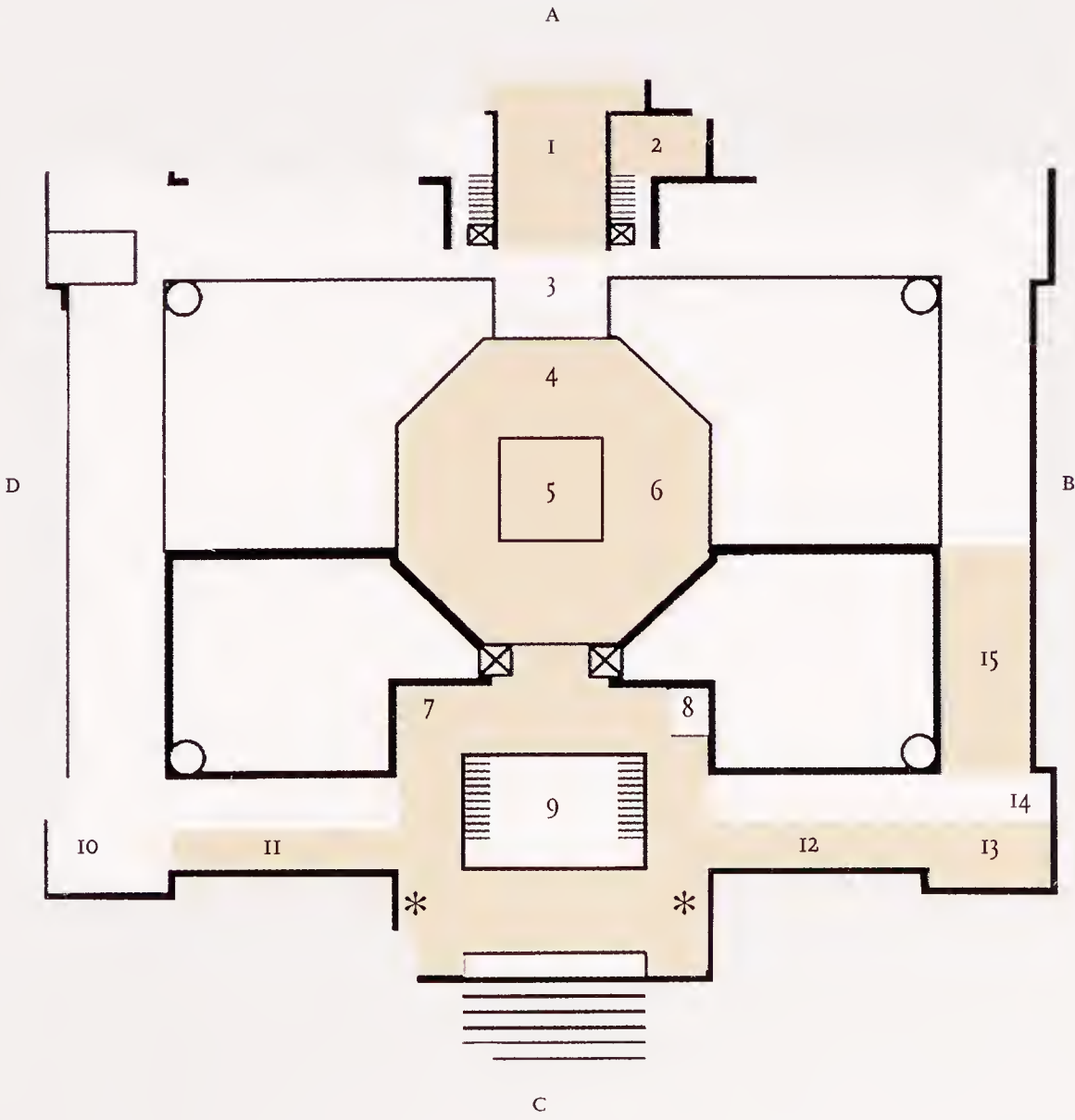
- A Second Street
- B Independence Avenue
- C First Street
- D East Capitol Street



First floor

- 1 Computer Catalog Center (Room 139)
- 2 Microform Reading Room (Room 139b)
- 3 Entrance
- 4 Main Reading Room
- 5 Book Service Desk
- 6 Special Search Desk (Alcove 7)
- 7 Librarian's Office
- 8 Women
- 9 Great Hall
- 10 Librarian's Reception Area
- 11 Meeting Rooms
- 12 Congressional Members' Room
- 13 Jefferson Congressional Reading Room (Room 103)
- 14 Men
- 15 Asian Reading Room (Room 150)

- A Second Street
- B Independence Avenue
- C First Street
- D East Capitol Street



- ☒ Elevator
- ▨ Stairs
- * Exhibition Areas



The Thomas Jefferson Building's facade, showing the Neptune Fountain. Photograph by Anne Day.

1888 in a dispute over the foundation, and Pelz left in 1892, replaced by Edward Pearce Casey, who took over the interior work, orchestrating the monumental art and architectural decorations. Brigadier General Thomas Lincoln Casey, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (and Edward Pearce Casey's father), and Bernard R. Green, the Superintendent of Construction, exhibited a rare combination of efficiency, pragmatism, and foresight in overseeing the building's construction. They completed the project under cost, assigning the savings to the "artistic enrichment" of paintings, sculptures and inscriptions within the building.

The result is still among the grandest public structures ever built in the United States. With the noteworthy exceptions of the Whittall Pavilion and the Coolidge Auditorium (added to the northwest



courtyard), construction of some additional book stacks, and an expansion of the east side of the building to create study areas and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division Reading Room, the building is essentially unchanged. A twelve-year, \$81.5 million renovation and restoration, completed in 1997, has made the building more accommodating to computer-age researchers and has assured that it will continue to live up to the words of an 1897 guidebook, which called it “a fitting tribute for the great thoughts of generations past, present, and to be.” The newly renovated Jefferson Building is a public showpiece, replete with inscriptions, paintings, and sculptural elements on the walls and ceilings that are celebratory, inspirational and educational. These elements reflect the times in which they were created, and those doing the selecting. Librarian Ainsworth Rand Spofford, for example, chose the nine authors to be honored with busts on the front entrance portico, the sixteen portrait statues standing on the balustrade above the Main Reading Room, and most of the quotations in the four corridors on the second floor of the Great Hall. Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard University, chose the inscriptions above the eight columnar statues in the Main Reading Room.

View from the Street

The Thomas Jefferson Building is generally the first stop for Library visitors. Approaching the building, two signature architectural elements are notable: the Neptune Fountain, sculpted by Roland Hinton Perry—which serves as the building’s sentinel on First Street—and the grand stairway leading to the Main Entrance. Perry’s bronze Neptune would, if standing, be twelve feet tall, and the dozen other large-scale figures in the fifty-foot basin include nymphs, monsters, frogs, and Florida sea turtles. Granite steps on either side lead to the central landing of the Main Entrance, its triple-arched porch containing nine portico busts mounted along the facing of the second floor, each representing a figure of learning: Dante, Demosthenes, Goethe, Thomas Macaulay, Walter Scott, as well as Americans Ralph Waldo Emerson, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne and, in the center, Benjamin Franklin. Beneath these, thirty-three ethnological heads suggested by Otis T. Mason, a natural history curator at the Smithsonian Institution, circle the building. Inside the porch are three fourteen-feet-tall bronze doors, representing (left to right) Tradition, the Art of Printing, and Writing.

The best public access to the Jefferson Building is via the west ground floor entrance, under the granite archway upon which the staircase sits. Just inside these doors are restrooms, a cloakroom, a sales shop and the Visitors’ Center, where volunteers and computer



Elihu Vedder's mosaic depicting Minerva, goddess of wisdom, as seen across a portion of the second floor of the Jefferson Building's Great Hall. Photograph by Anne Day.

kiosks offer detailed information about the Library. (The southeast door is also a public entrance used by readers and researchers.)

Left of the west ground-floor entrance, in Room LJ G13-14, is the Visitors' Theater, where a twelve-minute orientation film runs continuously. Next door, in LJ-G15, is the Swann Gallery for Caricature and Cartoon, where a revolving selection of animated art and political satire is displayed, chosen from the Caroline and Erwin Swann Collection in the Prints and Photographs Division. Next door, in LJ-G16, is the George and Ira Gershwin Room, offering a permanent exhibit of music, manuscripts, correspondence, scrapbooks, the desk, piano, self-portraits, and a video documentary of this great American composer-lyricist team.

In LJ-G17, the Bob Hope Gallery of American Entertainment showcases some artifacts from the music, theater, and dance collections. The Library's premier performance space, the 511-seat Coolidge Auditorium, and the adjacent Whittall Pavilion, named for benefactress Gertrude Clarke Whittall and housing the Library's quintet of Stradivari instruments, are located across the hall.

In the building's center, two white marble staircases lead up to the Great Hall, the centerpiece of the Library of Congress and one of the nation's greatest rooms.

The Great Hall

As Herbert Small reported, "By reason of a partial division of the hall into stories and open corridors, and on account of the splendor and variety of the decoration so liberally applied, the eye is attracted to a number of points of interest at once." However, if you walk to the center of the floor—white marble from Italy, red from France, brown from Tennessee—where the brass-inlaid sun's face serves as

The George and Ira Gershwin Room, Thomas Jefferson Building. Photograph by Jim Higgins.





the center of a compass, the unified, organic pattern of the building begins to emerge (*see* floor plan, page 37). Facing east, toward the Commemorative Arch (on which is written “LIBRARY OF CONGRESS” and the names of the building’s engineers and architects), all corridors to the left are north and all those to the right are south. The signs of the zodiac circle the room. Above, a great well rises two stories (seventy-five feet) to an ornate stained-glass skylight, painted blue and yellow in a pattern repeating that on the floor. It is rimmed by the names of ten authors from antiquity; to the east and west are eight more authors, three of them American.

The names and inscriptions on the walls reflect an idealistic time in American history when it was deemed possible to contain the sum of human knowledge in one building, a spirit exemplified by two quotes by Sir Francis Bacon, one in the domed north lobby of the nearby stairs: “Knowledge is power”; the other above the statue of Philosophy in the Main Reading Room: “The inquiry, knowledge and belief of truth is the sovereign good of human nature.”

The walls and ceilings of the first floor Entrance Vestibule (the former main entrance to the building); the North, South, and East Mosaic corridors; the Northwest and Southwest corridors; and the pavilions at either end of these ornately decorated hallways are inscribed with the names of native-born Americans associated with various fields of knowledge. These areas are also decorated with murals on the theme of Government by Elihu Vedder (who also created the mosaic *Minerva* on the second-floor landing), the names of the Librarians of Congress, and paintings and inscriptions on themes of Family, Education, the Muses, Lyric Poetry, and Greek Heroes. Two of the Library’s great treasures, the Gutenberg Bible, the first book printed by movable type in the western world (1454–55), and the Giant Bible of Mainz, are permanently displayed on the first floor.

On either side of the inlaid flooring, staircases lead to second-floor galleries, corridors, and exhibit areas. Two great American presidents are commemorated near the staircases: on the north side is a plaster bust of Thomas Jefferson, and on the south side, a bronze bust of George Washington, both by Jean-Antoine Houdon. The stairwells are white Italian marble and feature the sculpture of Philip Martiny: two eight-foot bronze female figures, each holding a torch of knowledge. The most fanciful of Martiny’s sculptures are the numerous marble cherubs that decorate the stairs and seem to be frolicking giddily, but actually represent various occupations and pursuits of modern life.

One of Philip Martiny’s two bronze sculptures of a woman holding a torch of knowledge, graces a staircase rising from the first floor of the Great Hall. Photograph by Carol Highsmith.

following page
A volume of the Gutenberg Bible. Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Photograph by Reid Baker.

comemoracione amittebāt: ut q̄ de-
 rant toruētis repleret punitō: et ipso
 quidem tuus mirabiliter transiret: illi
 autē nouā mortē inuenirēt. Nō enī
 creatura ad suū gen⁹ ab initio refigu-
 rabat deservētis tuis p̄ceptis: ut pueri
 tui custodirentur illesi. Nā nubes ca-
 lida eoy obūbrabat: et aqua q̄ ante
 erat terra arida apparuit: et mari cu-
 bro via sine impedimēto: et camp⁹ ger-
 minans de profundo nimio: per quē
 omnis natio transiuit. q̄ tegebāt tua
 manu vidētes tua mirabilia et mon-
 strā. Tanquā equi enim depauperunt
 escam: et tanquā agni exultauerunt
 magnificātes te domine qui liberaisti
 illos. Memores enī erāt adhuc corū
 que in incolam illorū facta fuerāt: quē
 admodū p̄ natione animalū edu-
 cit terra multas: et p̄ piscibus erudant
 fluvius multitudinē ranarū. Nonissi-
 me autē viderūt nouā creaturā auiū:
 cum abduci rōcupiscētia postulaue-
 runt escas epulacionis. In allorū
 ne enī desiderij ascendit illis de mari
 origo metra: et uexationes peccatori-
 bus supinuerūt non sine illis q̄ ante
 facta erāt argumētis p̄ vini fluminū.
 Quis enim patiebatur scdm̄ suas ne-
 quitias. Et enī inderetabile hospitali-
 tatē instituerūt. Alij quidem ignotos
 non recipiebāt aduenas. Alij autem
 bonos hospites in securitatem redige-
 bant. Et non solum hoc: sed et alius
 quidam respēd⁹ illorū erat: qm̄ inuiti
 recipiebāt extraneos. Qui autem cum
 leticia receperūt hos qui eisde usi erāt
 institutis: seuiissimis afflixerunt dolo-
 ribz. Percussi sunt autem cecitate: sicut
 illi in foribus iusti: cū subitaneis ro-
 pēti esset tenebris. Unusq̄q; cāsitū
 hostij sui querebat. In se enī elementa

dū cōuertitur sicut ī organo q̄litate
 sonus mutatur: et q̄ntia suū sonum
 custodiūt. Unde estimari et ipso vili-
 rato potest. Agrestia enī in aquatica
 cōuertebant: et q̄cumq; erat natiua ī
 terra transiebāt. Agrestis ī aqua valebat
 supra suā virtutē: et aqua extinguit
 nature obliuiscēbat. Nāme cōtrario
 corruptibiliū animalū nō reuerēte
 carnes cōabulāriū: nec dissoluebant
 illā que facile dissolubatur sicut glaci-
 es bonā escam. In omnibus enim ma-
 gnificasti pplū tuū domine: et h̄p̄nora-
 sti: et nō despectisti ī omni h̄et ī omni
 loco assistēs eis. *Explicit lib. sapie. in
 ap. plog. filij syrach in ecclesiasticū*
Multos nobis et magnos
 p̄ legem et p̄phetas aliosq;
 qui secuti sunt illos sapi-
 entia demonstrata ē: ī quibz
 oportet laudare israel doctore et sap-
 entie causa: quia nō solum ipsos lo-
 quentes necesse est esse p̄itos: sed et
 extraneos posse et discere et scribere
 doctissimos fieri. Amos me⁹ israel
 postq; se amplius dedit ad diligētiā
 ledionis legis et p̄phetarū et aliorū li-
 brorū qui nobis a parentibz nostris
 traditi sunt voluit et ipse scribere aliquē
 horū q̄ ad doctrinā et sapientiā p̄tine-
 re desiderātes discere et illorū p̄titi fieri
 magis magisq; attendant animo: et
 cōfirmētur ad legitimā vitā. Porro
 itaq; venire vos cum benignolentia et
 attentiori studio ledionē facere: et ven-
 iam habere in illis in quibz videmus
 sequentes imaginem sapientie: et des-
 cere in verborū cōpositione. Nā desce-
 runt v̄ba hebraica: quādo fuerūt tran-
 lata ad aliā linguā. Nō autē solum
 hec: sed et ipsa lē et p̄phete ceteraq; ali-
 rum librorū nō parvā habet differentiā

inter se dicuntur. Nam in octavo
anno auctoris temporibus prolonge
regis postquam pueri in egyptu
multum temporis ibi fuisse inueni
ros relictos non parum neque conce
dendone. Quare bonum et necessa
rium est ipse aliquam addere dili
gentiam et labore interpretandi librum istum
et vigiliam attenti doctrina in spa
tioris ad illa que ad finem ducunt li
brum dare: et illis qui volunt animam
dare et discere quidam modum opor
et statuere mores qui secundum le
gionem possunt vitam agere.

Epilogus. Insuper librum ecclesiasticum.
Omnis sapientia a do
mino deo est: et cum illo
fuit semper: et est an
te eum. Arcanum
maris et pluvie gut
tas et dies scilicet: quod di
cuntur altitudinem celi et latitu
dinem et profundum abyssi: quod dimensus
potentiam dei predicantem omnia:
investigavit prior omnium creatura
sapientia: et intellectus prudentie ab
omnis sapientie verbum dei in penetra
tione illius in ad aeterna.
et sapientie cui reuelata est: et actu
illius quod agnouit. Disciplina sa
pientie cui reuelata est et manifestata:
multiplicationem ingressus illius
intellectus. Unus est altissimus
et omnium omnipotens: et rex potes
tendus minimus: sedens super thronum
illius: et dominus deus. Ipse cre
auit in spiritu sancto: et vidit et di
cuntur et mensus est. Et effudit illam
omnia opera sua: et super omnem
est secundum datum suum: et per illam
tenet se. Timor domini gloria
ratio: et letitia et corona reuerentia.

Timor domini delectabit cor: et dabit
letitiam et gaudium in longitudine dierum.
Timeat deum bene erit in eternis: et in
die defensionis sue benedicet. Dilectio
dei honorabilis sapientia: quibus autem
apparuerit in visu diligunt eam: in visione
et in agnitione magnarum suarum. Quia
sapientie timor domini: et cum fidelibus
in uoluntate conuersatus est: et cum electis
feminis graditur: et cum iustis et fidelibus
agnoscitur. Timor domini scientie
religiosas. Religiosas custodiet et
iustificabit cor: et occidit atque gaudi
um dabit. Timeat deum bene erit in eter
nitate et in diebus consolationis illius
benedicet. Plenitudo sapientie timere
deum: et plenitudo a fructibus illius.
Vim domini illius implebit a generati
onibus: et receptacula a thesauris illi
us. Corona sapientie timor domini:
replens pacem et salutis fructum: et ui
dit et diminuerunt eam. Utraque
autem sunt dona dei. Scientia et intel
lectus prudentie: sapientia comparatur:
et gloria eternam se realit. Radix sa
pientie est timere deum: et cum illius longe
ui. In thesauris sapientie intellectus et
scientie religiosas: reuerentia autem pecca
toribus sapientia. Timor domini repel
lit peccatum. Nam qui sine timore est
non poterit iustificari: iracundia enim
animositas illius subuersio eius est.
Usque in tempus sustinebit patiens: et
postea reddet iocunditatem. Bonum sen
sus. usque in tempus abscondet uerba illius:
et labia multorum enarrabunt sensum illius.
In thesauris sapientie significatio di
scipline: reuerentia autem peccatori cultu
ra dei. Filius concupiscens sapientiam conser
ua iustitiam: et deus prohibet illam tibi. Sa
pientia enim et disciplina timor domini:
et quod beneplacitum est illi fides et mansuetudo:

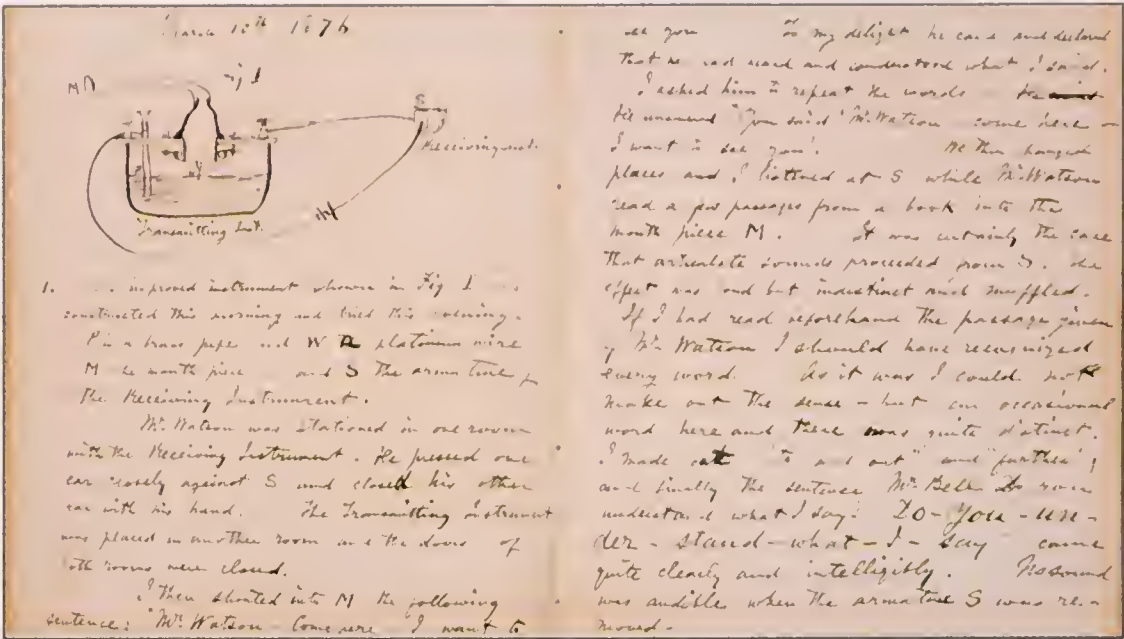
below

The Library's first permanent exhibit of items from its collections, mounted in the Treasures Gallery, initially featured artifacts of American History, including an eighteenth-century powder horn inscribed with a map of the Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys. Geography and Map Division.



top and above right

Alexander Graham Bell's notebook entry of March 10, 1876, describing the first successful experiment with the telephone, Manuscript Division; and Frank Lloyd Wright's 1923 perspective drawing of the Dr. John Storer House in Hollywood, California, Prints and Photographs Division, were among the first items exhibited. Photographs by Roger Foley.



Second-Floor Corridors and Galleries

The second floor houses the Jefferson Building's most elegant and spacious exhibit areas. A highlight is the Treasures Gallery. Here, in the Southwest Gallery and Pavilion, some of the rarest and most significant items from the Library's collections are displayed. (Items change periodically for preservation reasons.) The thematic exhibits in the Great Hall galleries celebrate recorded knowledge in all languages from throughout the world. They feature treasures of the written and printed word, materials from special collections and historic American documents, and books from the personal libraries of Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson. Notable visiting exhibitions, such as *Treasures from the Bibliothèque nationale de France* (1995) are also mounted in the Jefferson Building.

Quoting the estimable Herbert Small, "The [second-floor] corridors are arranged like those which the visitor has already passed through on the first floor, but their greater height and the brighter tone of the decoration give an effect of considerably greater spaciousness." Each of the four mosaic corridors surrounding the Great Hall is decorated with a different color scheme and by paintings from different artists—in the West Corridor (towards the front of the building) are Walter Shirlaw's depictions of the eight sciences;

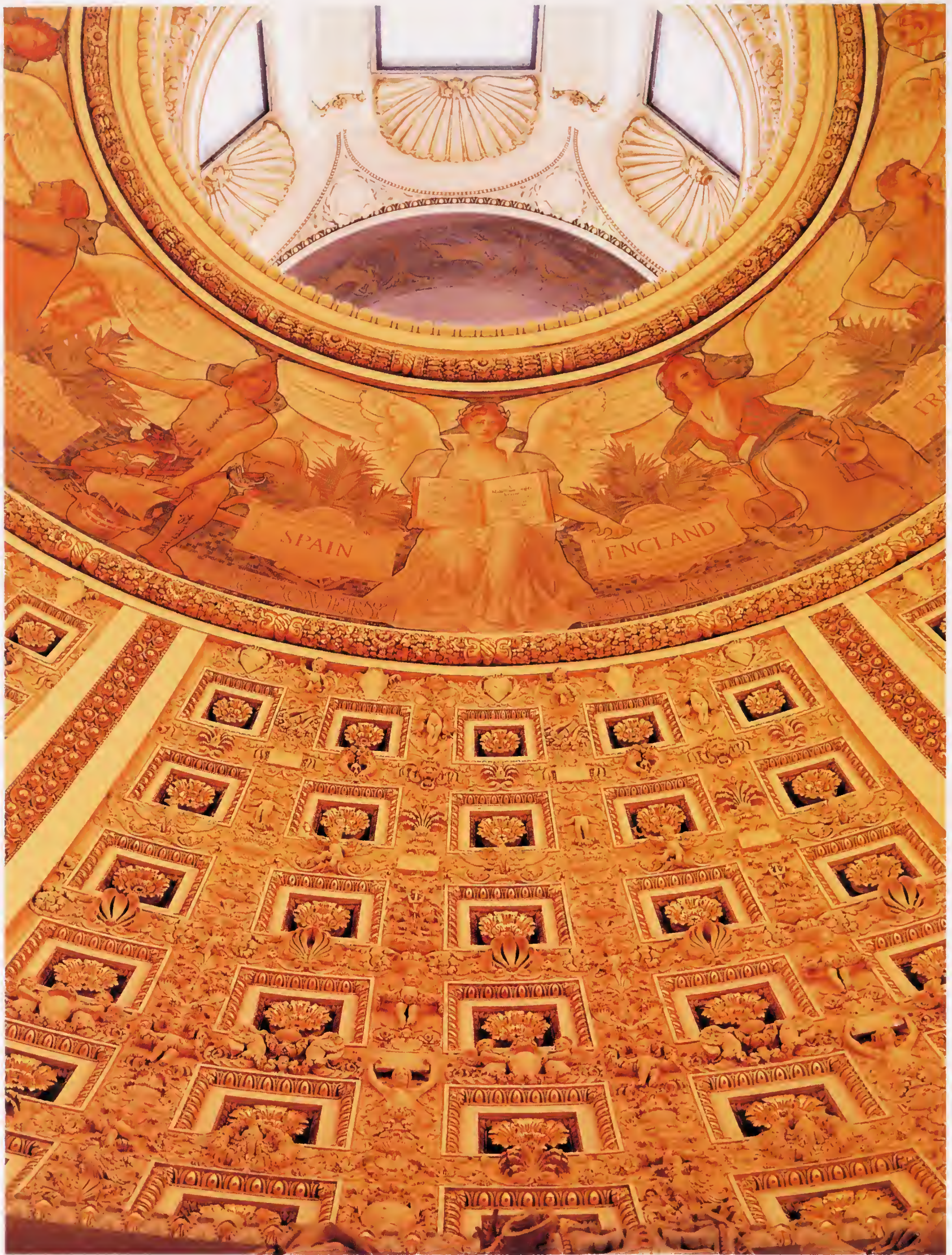
in the North Corridor are Robert Reid's five octagonal depictions of the Senses and four circular paintings of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, and Philosophy; in the East Corridor are George R. Barse's paintings depicting Love and Lyric Poetry; and in the South Corridor are Frank Weston Benson's three circular Graces. In each corner of the second-floor corridors is a painting of one of the Virtues by George Willoughby Maynard. The Northwest and Southwest galleries flare out from the corridors, leading to the Northwest and Southwest pavilions. Each gallery is sumptuously decorated, by Gari Melcher's and William de Leftwich Dodge's lunettes (Northwest) and Kenyon Cox's lunettes (Southwest); and each of the second floor's pavilions is crowned by a ceiling disc, painted by Maynard (Southwest, "Discoverers") and Robert Leftwich Dodge (Southeast, "The Elements").

Visitors' Gallery

The Visitors' Gallery, opposite the Main Entrance, up a flight of stairs and past Vedder's stunning *Minerva*, affords a bird's-eye view



Ceiling disk: "Apollo" or "The Elements" by Robert Leftwich Dodge. The signs of the zodiac around the outer edge are by Elmer E. Garnsey. Photograph by the Architect of the Capitol.



of the Main Reading Room, described by historian Paul Angle as, “the very heart of the institution.” Angle continued, “Even though one stands at a back-breaking height above the floor, the dome . . . reaches far above, while below, the dark surfaces of hundreds of desks, in concentric broken circles, gleam with the shaded lights of intent readers. Even the brashest tourist speaks in a whisper.”

The rim of the dome of the Main Reading Room is decorated by Edwin Howland Blashfield's painting representing Human Understanding. Photograph by Carol Highsmith.

The Main Reading Room

The outstanding features of the Main Reading Room (LJ-100) include the domed ceiling; eight symbolic statues (made of plaster and toned ivory white) set atop the room's eight marble support columns, each with a corresponding inscription; sixteen bronze statues (each embodying a field of knowledge); paintings by Edwin Howland Blashfield along the rim of the dome (and inside the dome's lantern, 160 feet from the floor, is a work representing Human Understanding lifting the veil of ignorance from her eyes); John Flanagan's rotunda clock with the life-size bronze of Father Time; and the forty-eight state seals distributed among the eight semicircular stained-glass windows.

This magnificent room is the primary entrance into the Library's research collections and the principal reading room for the social sciences and humanities. The room houses 75,000 reference books; 226 desks for readers and 700 study shelves for a limited number of books to be stored for extended use; and computer workstations in six of the eight alcoves that surround the readers' desks and the Central Desk. The Main Card Catalog, still useful for historical in-depth research, is accessible behind one of the alcoves.

Readers and researchers enter via the southeast ground-floor entrance of the Jefferson Building or via the tunnel from the Madison or Adams buildings. A Reader Registration Card is required (*see* Appendix I, "Using the Library," page 146).

The Computer Catalog Center (LJ-139), comprising fifty-eight research stations, is on the east side of the reference area, and the Microform Reading Room (LJ-139B) is down the hall; it provides access to the general microform collection of the Library of Congress. Other specialized reading rooms, such as the Law, Newspaper, and Manuscript reading rooms, also contain microform collections.

The General Collections

The core of the Library's holdings of books, monographs, pamphlets, and bound serials is the General Collections, which fill twelve levels of stacks in the Jefferson Building and twelve levels of stacks in the Adams Building. Most of the 19 million volumes in the General Collections were acquired through copyright deposit, though some came through gift, exchange, or purchase; they occupy 257 of the Library's 532 miles of bookshelves (the collections of individual Library divisions occupy the balance of the space). Because 10,000 new items are added to the Library's collections each working day, space is so precious that some bookshelves in the



General Collections' stacks now contain two rows of books, one behind the other.

For security reasons, the General Collections' book stacks, like all storage areas for Library collections, are closed to the public. Requested volumes are retrieved by Library staff and delivered, via the conveyor belts that connect the Library buildings, to the appropriate reading room.



Items from the General Collections: Frontispiece and title page, with portrait of Mary Livermore from *My Story of the [Civil] War: A Woman's Narrative* by Mary A. Livermore, 1888; cover and spine of *A Texas Cowboy* by Chas. A. Siringo, 1886; the cover of the January 1913 *St. Nicholas* magazine; and various foreign-language editions of the hallmark American novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Half the Library's book and serial collections are in languages other than English. Some 460 languages are represented.

The Library's General Collections contain the world's largest historical collection of U.S. telephone criss-cross (phone number and address) and city directories; 8,000 volumes are acquired each year. The General Collections also include historical foreign telephone books and city directories (1,500 received annually from over 100 countries).

African and Middle Eastern Division

The African and Middle Eastern Division Reading Room (LJ-220) is the primary public access point for this division's collections—which include materials in vernacular scripts such as Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Georgian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, and Yiddish. Covering over seventy countries and regions, from Morocco to Southern Africa to the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, the division's three sections—African,

"Africae," from Joan Blaeu, Atlas Maior, 1662–65.
Geography and Map Division.



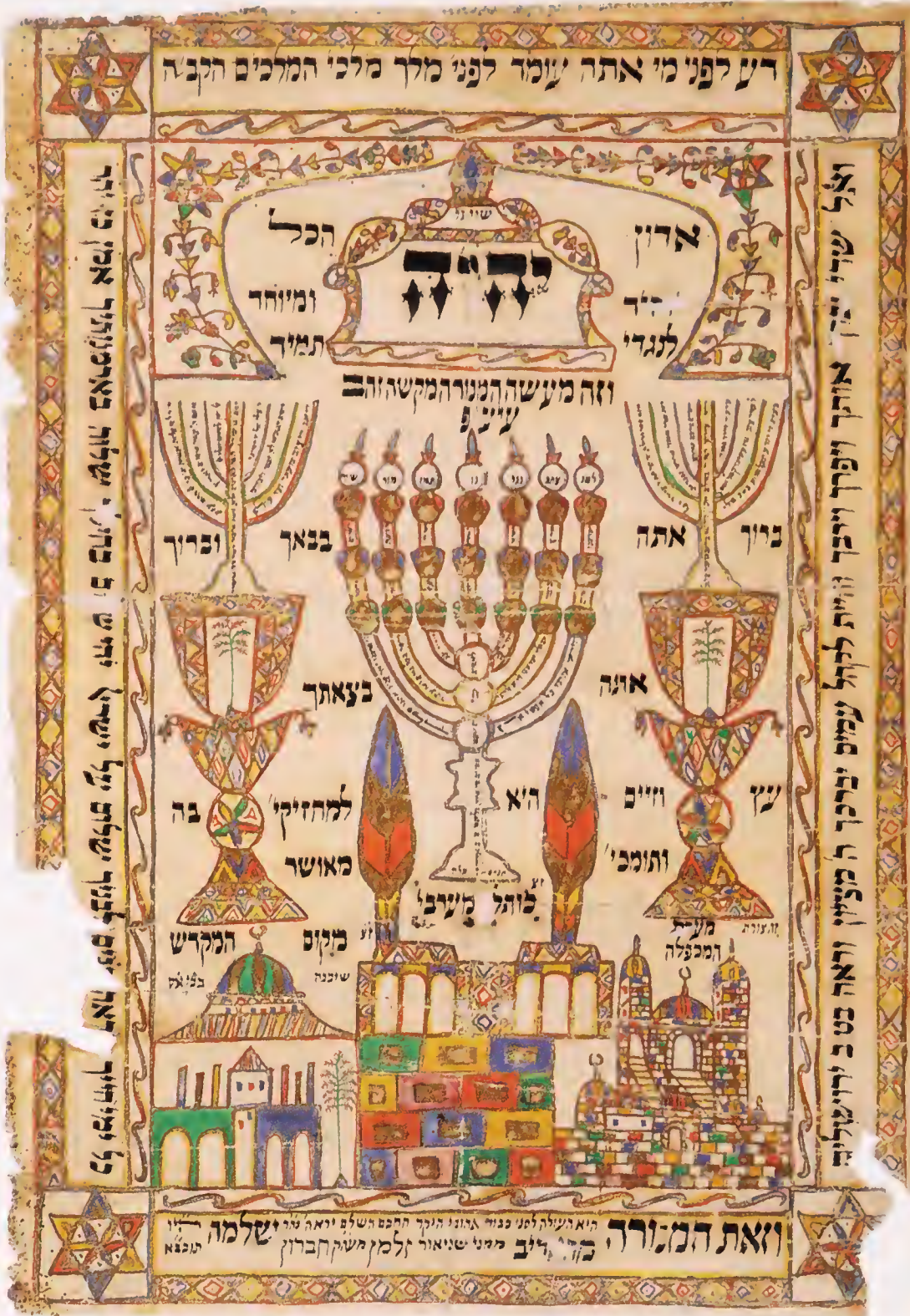
Hebraic, and Near East—offer in-depth reference assistance and produce guides to the Library's rich and varied collections of related materials.

The *African Section* is the focal point of the Library's reference and bibliographic activities on sub-Saharan Africa, which excludes the North African countries of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Library's Africana collections encompass every major

The African and Middle Eastern Division holds 600,000 volumes in the non-Roman script languages of the region.

The Hebraic Section holds 16,000 volumes in Hebrew and related languages, including Yiddish, Ladino, Syriac, and the languages of Ethiopia.

During the 1930s, the Library acquired from Kirkor Minassian, a New York art dealer, 300 items related to the development of writing and the book arts in the Middle East. The collection includes 200 calligraphy sheets containing fragments of the Koran in Kufic script from the ninth and tenth centuries.



Shivviti Plaques, such as this one dating from the late nineteenth century, were generally decorated with biblical verses forming a menorah (seven-branch candelabrum) and were used in the synagogue and home. This one was created by the itinerant charity emissary from Hebron, Shneur Zalman Mendelowitz. Hebraic Section.

field of study except technical agriculture and clinical medicine, more comprehensive collections of which are found at the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine.

The Hebraic Section is one of the world’s foremost centers for the study of Hebrew and Yiddish materials. Established in 1914, the Hebraic Section now holds substantial materials of research value in Hebrew and related languages. Holdings are especially strong in the Bible and rabbinics, liturgy, Hebrew language and literature, responsa (written decisions from rabbinical authorities), and Jewish history. Extensive collections of printed editions of Passover Haggadot have been assembled, and the section holds a comprehensive collection of Holocaust memorial volumes.

Established in 1945, the Near East Section covers the Arab World, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and the Caucasus Republics of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. The collections include works in over thirty-eight languages of the region and are, in some cases, the largest in



This rendering of a passage from the Koran, "The Darkening," in Kufic script on vellum probably dates from the ninth century. Near East Section.



"Filban" (elephant driver). Color plate from a nineteenth-century Persian Manuscript, *Kitab-i tashrih al-aqvam*. Rosenwald Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

below
A watercolor rendering of a rosette from the inside trimming of the mausoleum of Emir Abu-Tengi in Samarkand. From *Turkestanskii Al'bom* circa 1880s. Prints and Photographs Division.

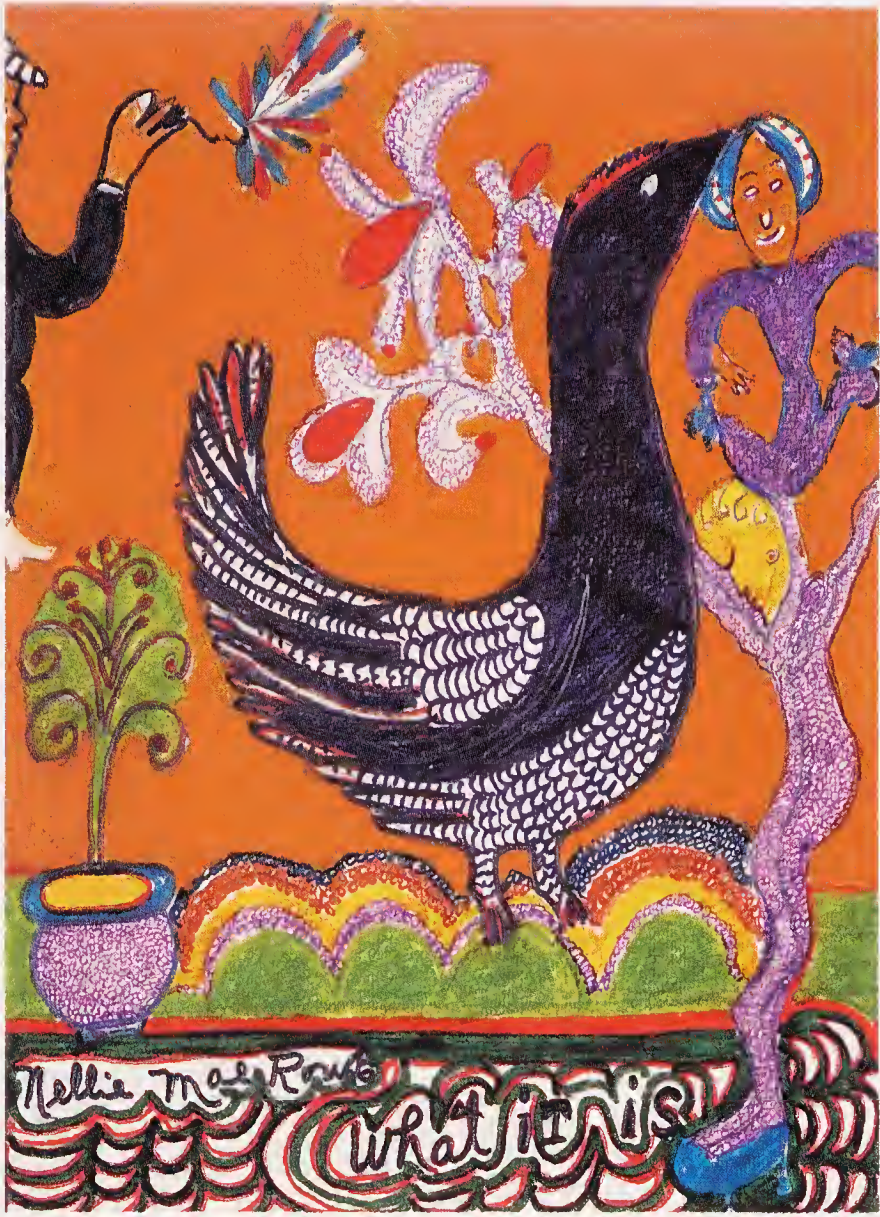
the United States. Priceless manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Armenian, along with early and rare monographic imprints, long runs of newspapers and serials, and collections of ephemera form the nucleus of a major repository on the Near East.





Dancers, Crow Agency,
Montana, 1979. Photograph
by Michael Crummett.
American Folklife Center.

“Black Hen: What Is It?”
Crayon drawing by Nellie Mae
Rowe of Vinings, Georgia.
American Folklife Center.



American Folklife Center

The United States Congress created the American Folklife Center in 1976 to “preserve and present American folklife.” The center incorporates the Library’s Archive of Folk Culture, which was founded in 1928 as a repository for American folk music—essentially America’s first national archive of traditional life, and one of the oldest and largest in the world. It became part of the American Folklife Center in 1978. Today, the AFC’s multi-format ethnographic collections are diverse and international and include photographs, manuscripts, audio recordings, and moving images. The Folklife Reading Room of the American Folklife Center (LJ-G49) is the researchers’ access point. Noteworthy collections include field recordings of music and folklore from rural and urban areas, tran-

scribed interviews with former slaves, broadcast recordings and research files assembled by the Office of War Information, and field recordings of North American Indian music from the 1890s to the present day.

With 1.5 million items, the Archive of Folk Culture in the American Folklife Center is the largest repository of traditional cultural documentation in the United States and among the largest in the world.

American Folklife Center collections include the world’s earliest ethnographic field recordings.

Asian Division

Begun in 1869 with the gift of 933 volumes by the emperor of China to the U.S. government, the Library's Asian collections now comprise 2 million books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, and microforms from China, Japan, Korea, the South Asian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. The collections span the humanities, social sciences, and natural and applied sciences. The 755,000-volume Chinese collection is the largest of its kind outside China; among its



Nature painting on silk from Album of Twelve Original Watercolors, artist unknown, 1890. Asian Division.

core collection of over 2,000 rare books and manuscripts are 1,500 imprints from the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) and a Buddhist sutra from 975 A.D. The 952,000-volume Japanese collection is, likewise, the largest outside Japan, containing more than 4,000 rare items from the pre-Meiji Period (before 1868). The collection expanded greatly after World War II, with important historical material added. From 1994 to 2000, the Japan Documentation Center collected “grey literature” (hard to obtain current materials) from Japan and provided bibliographic access to 4,500 items on its database. Similar materials from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan were added to the Chinese collection.

The Korean collection, begun in the early 1950s, contains 180,000 items. The South and Southeast Asia collection contains 280,000 volumes, and includes material from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos,

Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Of particular note is the 9,000-item Tibetan collection, begun in 1901 and containing material from the eighth century to the present.

The Asian Reading Room (IJ-150) is the gateway to material in all Asian languages and about Asian American Studies, the Asian Diaspora, and the Pacific Islands. Materials written in Asian languages are served in the Asian Reading Room.

A portion of the 1629 Chinese Buddhist folding album of the Diamond Sutra. Asian Division



The second oldest example of printing in the world—four small scrolls with passages from a Buddhist sutra, printed in 770 A.D.—is held in the Asian collections.

The Chinese collection is rich in classical Chinese literature and in Chinese local histories (4,000 titles) and includes ancient works on Chinese agriculture, botany and medicine as well as contemporary Chinese publications.



Among the treasures in the Asian Division are depictions of some of the 500 Buddhist worthies (right), a cloth scroll showing the realms of the Universe (middle), and a Tibetan Buddhist prayer wheel. Asian Division.

The Japanese materials include a collection of traditional mathematics called “wasan” and other classics in religion, history, and literature.

The Korean collection includes 180,000 volumes in Korean and 20,000 Japanese-language books on Korea.

Among the most unusual items in the South and Southeast Asia Collections are the writings of the Mindoro-Palawan axis on bamboo strips.

The Tibetan holdings include rare xylograph redactions of the Tibetan Buddhist canonical literature, Kanjur and Tanjur, and possibly the only copy in the West of the Bon-po Kanjur.

European Division

The European Division Reading Room (LJ-250) is the primary access point for researchers using the vast collections relating to European countries, including the Russian-speaking areas of Asia. Researchers interested in Spain and Portugal should contact the Hispanic Division Reading Room; those interested in the United Kingdom and Ireland should contact the Main Reading Room. The European Division Reading Room holds current, unbound Slavic and Baltic periodicals and recent issues of Western European newspapers and periodicals and collections of pamphlets and “grey literature” (hard to obtain current materials). The European Division Reading Room also has microfilmed newspapers from Slavic and Baltic countries.

*European materials are found in many Library of Congress divisions. This depiction of the Church of Vassili Blagennoi in Moscow is one of sixty hand-colored plates in *Excursions Daguerriennes: Vues et Monuments les plus Remarquables du Globe* (Daguerrean Excursions: The World's Most Remarkable Scenes and Monuments) (Paris, 1842), housed in the Prints and Photographs Division.*





above
Boethius's *De Consolatione Philosophiae* (Ghent, 1485) has text in Dutch and Latin, commentary in Dutch, illuminated initials and borders and, at the beginning of each of the five books, miniatures by a Flemish artist, possibly the Master of Edward IV. Rosenwald Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

right
The name "America" was first used in Martin Waldseemüller's *Cosmographiae introductio* (St. Die, 1507). Thacher Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

COSMOGRAPHIAE

Capadociam/Pamphiliam/Lidiam/Ciliciā/Armenias maiore & minore. Colchiden/Hircaniam/Hiberiam/Albaniā: et præterea multas quas singulatim enumerare longa mora esset. Ita dicta ab eius nominis regina.

Nunc vero & hæc partes sunt latius illustratæ & alia quarta pars per Americū Vesputiū (ut in sequenti bus audietur) inuenta est: quā non video cur quis iure vetet ab Americo inuentore sagacis ingenij viro Amerigeni quasi Americi terrā / siue Americam dicendū: cū & Europa & Asia a mulieribus sua sortita sint nomina. Eius sitū & gentis mores ex his binis Americi nauigationibus quæ sequuntur liquide intelligi datur.

Hunc in modū terra iam quadripartita cognoscitur: et sunt tres primæ partes cōtinentes / quarta est insula: cū omni quacūq; mari circūdata conspiciat. Sic licet mare vnū sit quæadmodū et ipsa tellus / multis tamen sinibus distincta: & innumeris repletum insulis varia sibi nomina assumit: quæ et in Cosmographiæ tabulis cōspiciuntur. & Priscianus in translatione Dionisijs talibus enumerat versibus.

Circuit Oceani gurges tamen vndiq; vastus
Qui quous vnus sit plurima nomina sumit.
Fimibus Hesperij Atlanticus ille vocatur
At Boreæ qua gens sunt Armia spā sub armis
Dicit ille piger necnō Satur. idē Mortuus est alij;

The Library holds the largest collection of Russian-language materials in the United States and the largest outside of Russia (750,000 items).

Approximately 50 percent of the Library's rare books are of European origin.

Each year, the Library acquires 30,000 volumes from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland; 7,000 volumes from France; 2,000 Hungarian monographs; and 1,500 Czech and Slovak monographs.

Library of Congress holdings of books and other materials from almost all European countries are larger than anywhere in the world outside the countries themselves.

Hispanic Division

The Hispanic Division Reading Room (LJ-240) occupies the second floor Southeast Gallery. Designed by Paul Philippe Cret, who designed the Folger Shakespeare Library (across Second Street), the entrance is dominated by four colorful murals by Brazilian artist Candido Portinari. Completed between October 1941 and January 12, 1942, the murals focus on central themes in the past 500-year experience of human contact in the Americas: exploration and discovery (*Discovery of the Land*); taming the environment (*Entry into the Forest*); acculturation and cross-cultural fertilization (*Teaching of the Indians*); and exploitation of natural resources (*Mining of Gold*). The reading room is the primary access point for research into the Caribbean, Latin America, Spain, and Portugal; the indigenous cultures of those areas; and peoples throughout the world historically influenced by Luso-Hispanic heritage, including Latinos in the United States and peoples of Portuguese or Spanish heritage in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Luso-Hispanic, Iberian, and Caribbean materials can be accessed through the Hispanic Division or through the Main Reading Room. The reading room was dedicated in 1939.



Four murals by Brazilian artist Candido Portinari decorate the Hispanic Division Reading Room; at left is "Discovery of the Land."

The Library's Iberian, Latin American and Caribbean collections, comprising 10 million items (books, journals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, photographs, posters, recordings, sheet music and other materials) are the world's largest.

Since 1942, the Library, through the Hispanic Division, has developed the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape. By 1999, the Archive contained the recordings of over 650 authors reading from their own works; eight of those authors have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The Collection of Spanish Plays comprises over 8,100 Spanish plays published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, principally in Madrid and Barcelona. The collection, received from the Hispanic Society of America in 1938, is now on microfilm.

The Archive of Hispanic Culture, a photographic reference collection for the study of Latin American art and architecture, is not housed in the Hispanic Division proper, but in the Prints and Photographs Division.

The Archive of Folk Culture in the American Folklife Center contains recordings of Mexican indigenous and European music as well as music from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Surinam, Trinidad, and Luso-Hispanics in the United States.

Local History and Genealogy Division

The Local History and Genealogy Reading Room (LJ-G42) serves one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical and local historical publications. The collection began in 1815, with the acquisition of records from Thomas Jefferson's library. The Genealogy Reading Room houses 10,000 indexes, guides, and other reference works, as well as published genealogies, local histories, and genealogical compendiums. (Primary documents are in the National Archives.) Special catalogs and indexes are generally arranged by family name. In addition to providing information on family histories, the division directs researchers to sources on the history of American communities.

Although earlier generations of Americans pursuing genealogical research generally focused on ancestors who came before 1783, current interest embraces the wave of immigrants who



"Teaching of the Indians,"
one of four murals by Candido
Portinari decorating the
Hispanic Division Reading
Room.

below

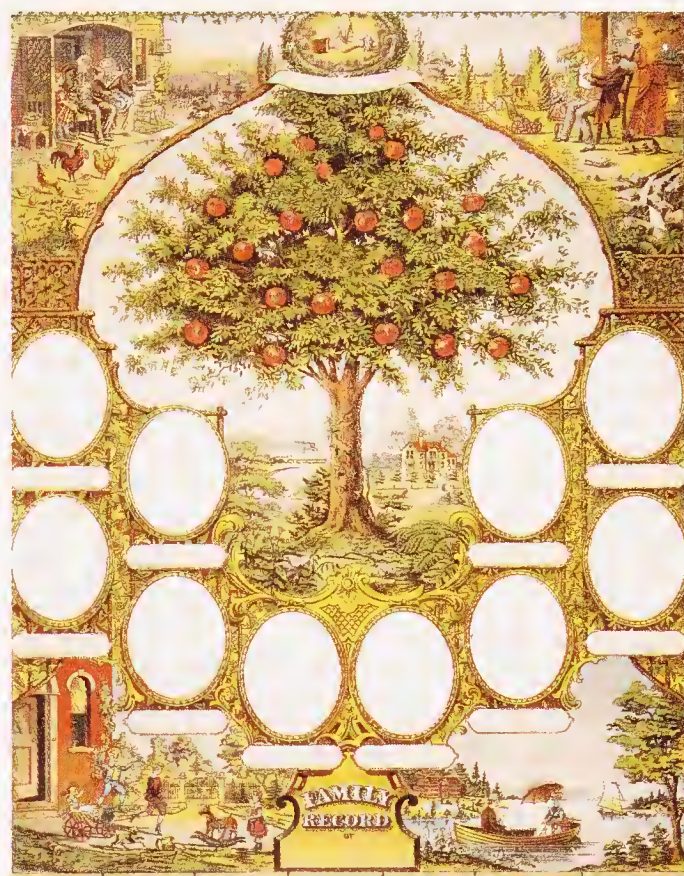
"The Steerage." Photograph, 1907, by Alfred Stieglitz. Alfred Stieglitz Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

below right

C. P. Cory. *"Family Record,"* color lithograph, 1888. Popular and Applied Graphic Arts Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

arrived in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A guide to finding Customs Passenger Lists of 1820–1905 and Immigration Passenger Lists of 1883–1945 (both mandated by Congressional Acts regulating passenger vessels) is available in the reading room, while the National Archives holds the records themselves. Local History and Genealogy also assists in finding sources for foreign genealogical research.

The Library suggests that researchers first consult their local public library for information on genealogical research. A brochure on the Library's local history and genealogy collection is available on request.



The Library's genealogy holdings include 40,000 family histories and 100,000 U.S. local histories, plus local histories from around the world, all donated to the collections.

Since the 1700s, British local history societies have produced hundreds of parish registers and other records acquired by the Library. The collection of local history and genealogical materials on Great Britain and Ireland is so large that it ranks second only to the Library's holdings relating to the United States.





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Karl Bodmer captured a depth of ethnological detail in his depictions of the Plains Indians, the first truly accurate ones to reach the public. His "Scalp Dance of the Menatarres," taken from Prince Maximilian's Travels in the Interior of North America between 1832 and 1834, is one of eighty-one hand-colored polychromes that Bodmer made from his original paintings for the book. Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Rare Book and Special Collections Division

The Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room (LJ-239) occupies much of the east side of the Jefferson Building's second floor. The history of printing—a recurring theme in the Jefferson Building—is represented on the bronze doors of this reading room via the printer's marks of ten printers from Europe (left door) and the New World (right door). The unique materials of the Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room, now over 700,000 items, include books, broadsides, pamphlets, theater playbills, title pages, prints, posters, photographs, and medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. The collections' nucleus is still Thomas Jefferson's library. Other unique holdings include Woodrow Wilson's library and the Harry Houdini, Benjamin Franklin, and Susan B. Anthony collections (the last, divided between this and the Manuscript Division). Opposite the reading room is the Lessing J. Rosenwald Room, modeled after Mr. Rosenwald's Alverthorpe Gallery in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, and the repository of the Rosenwald Reference Collection. (The Rosenwald Collection itself, 2,653 illustrated books from the fifteenth through the twentieth centuries, is housed in the Rare Book vaults.)

Illuminated page from the Néksei-Lipocz Bible, a Latin Bible probably written and decorated in Hungary in 1335–40. Rare Book and Special Collections Division.



Two examples of artistic works with scientific purposes held in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division are this "Iris Xiphium" from Pierre-Joseph Redoute's *Choix de Plus Belles Fleurs* (1827–33) and "The Little Owl" from Mark Catesby's *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands* (1771).

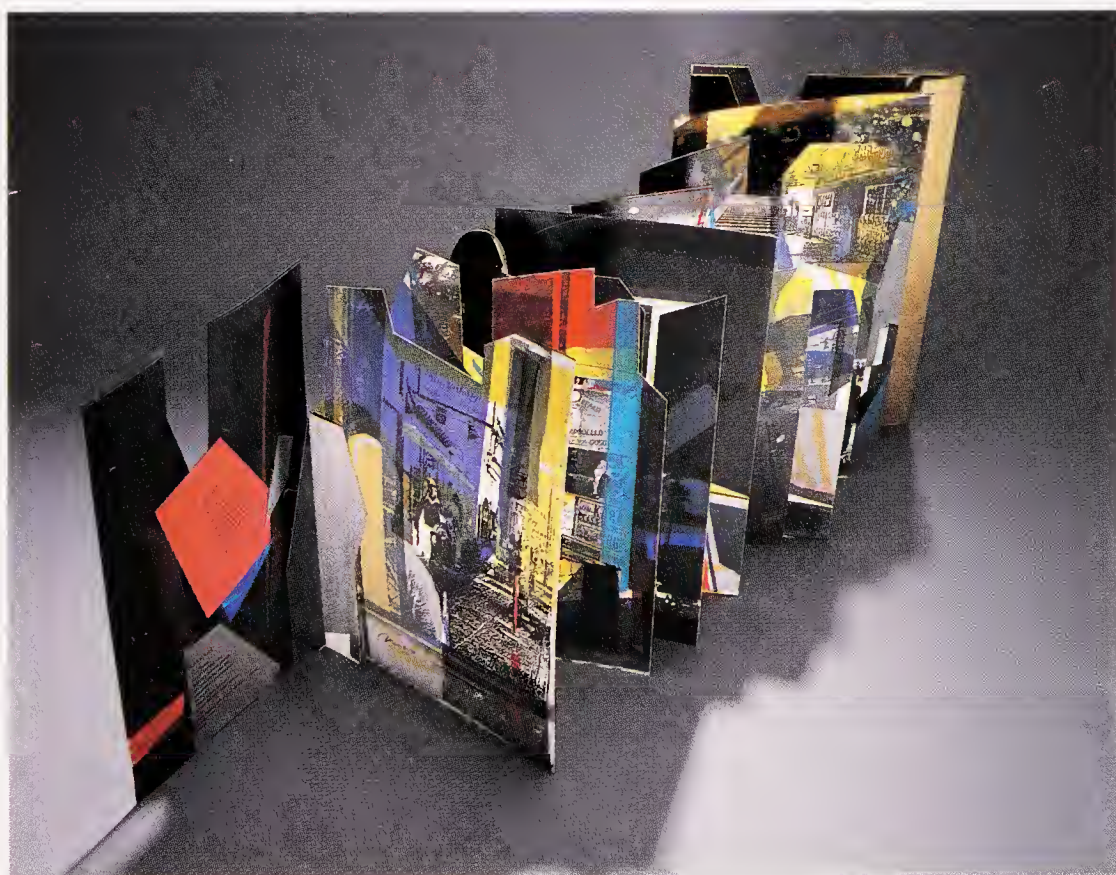


On Christmas Eve 1851, a fire in the Library's principal room in the Capitol destroyed 35,000 of its 55,000-item collection—including two-thirds of Thomas Jefferson's library. Many of Jefferson's volumes have been replaced, but 900 are still missing. As part of the Library's Bicentennial celebration in 2000, a worldwide search was started to replace these missing books.

The smallest book in the Library of Congress, Old King Cole, is housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. It is $1/25$ " x $1/25$ ". The pages can only be turned with a needle.

The Rare Book collections also contain the largest book in the Library: John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, 39.37" (1 meter) high.

Many modern examples of the book arts are housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. This 1993 collaboration between poet Barbara Luck and illustrator Lois Johnson, *Night Street*, was published by the Janus Press. Photograph by Roger Foley.







The John Adams Building

“I cannot live without books,” Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams in 1815; nor, of course, could the burgeoning Library of Congress. Although Librarian Ainsworth Spofford optimistically predicted that the original building would house collections and programs until 1975, by the late 1920s shrinking storage and office space prompted then Librarian Herbert Putnam to ask Congress for a second building. In 1930, the government appropriated \$6,500,000, later increased to \$8,226,457, for a functional and efficient bookstack “encircled with work spaces” for cataloging and acquisitions specialists.

While the Library of Congress Annex, as it was called until 1976, was both functional and efficient (state-of-the-art conveyor belts and pneumatic tubes were built in to transport books, and catalog cases and table tops pioneered the use of formica, the stain- and burn-proof, cutting-edge plastic), it also came to be recognized as one of the few distinguished Art Deco buildings in Washington, D.C. The architectural firm of Pierson & Wilson, in collaboration with Alexander Trowbridge, designed a structure that would harmonize with its two classically inspired, but stylistically different neighbors: the ornate and monumental Main Building of the Library of Congress (now the Jefferson Building) and the simplified, well-proportioned Folger Shakespeare Library. The basic organization and massing of the Annex reflect that of its august partner, but its spirit and decoration are, like the Folger’s, distinctly modern.

The stepped-back upper stories of the Annex’s five-story facade mirror the Main Building. The elegant exterior is faced with white Georgia marble and North Carolina pink granite that seem to glow in sunlight. Vertical bands of windows alternate with planar marble surfaces, and sandblasted friezes adorning the pediment and surrounding doorways are part of its “stripped classical” styling. The “Greco-Deco” ornamentation features variations of the honeysuckle flower, a motif popular in American architecture from the early nineteenth century.



previous page
Facade of the John Adams Building. Photograph by Jim Higgins.

Bronze door of the Adams Building. Photograph by Carol Highsmith.

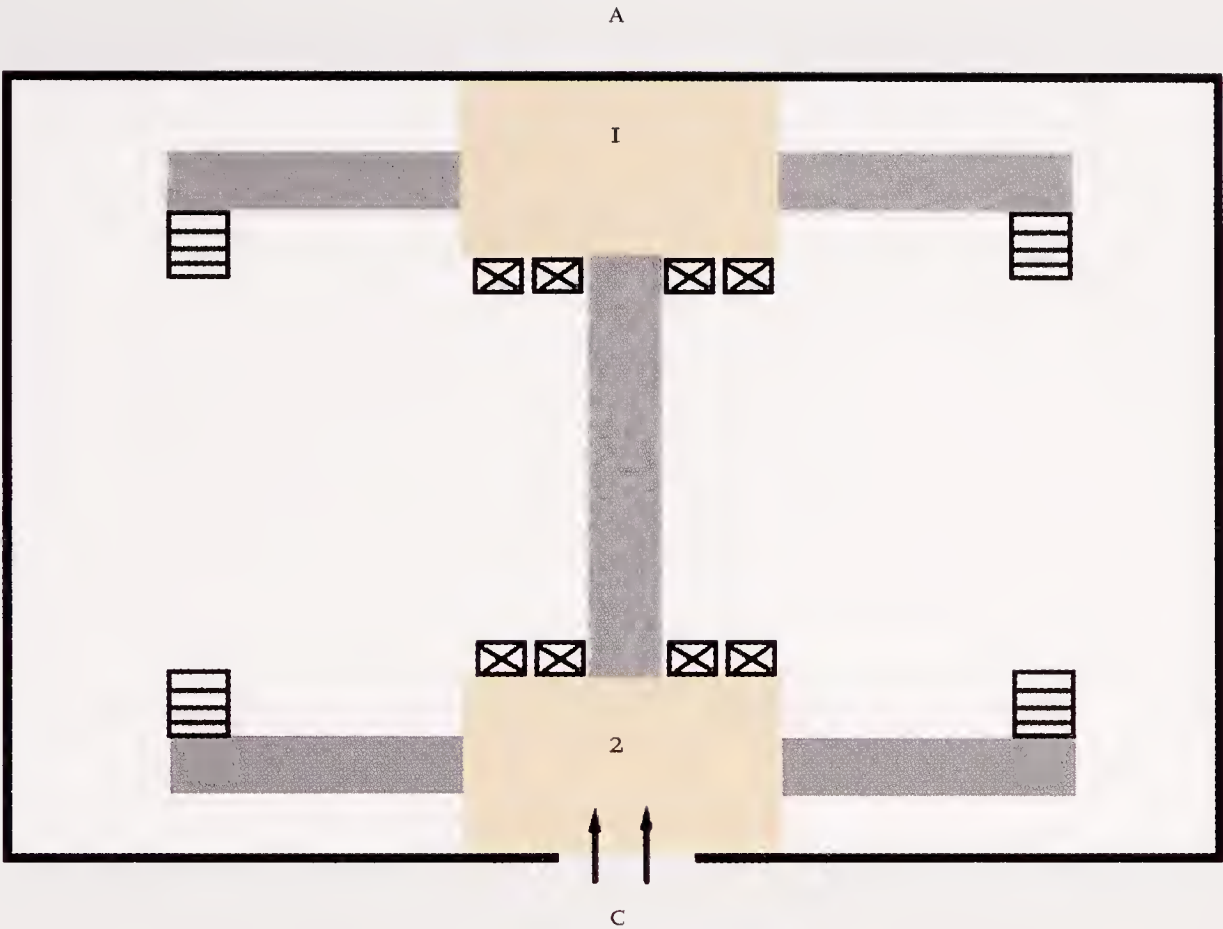
Seven pairs of chased bronze doors bring a touch of exotica to the otherwise restrained building. Lee Lawrie's sculptures of Hermes, Odin, Ogma (credited with inventing the Gaelic alphabet), the gods Itzama (Mayan) and Quetzalcoatl (Aztec), and the Native American Sequoyah personify the history of the written word at the west (Second Street) entrance. The east side (Third Street) celebrates the cultural contributions of three additional gods—Thoth (Egyptian), Nabu (Akkadian), and Brahma (Indian)—as well as Cadmus, the Greek sower of dragon's teeth, the ancient Persian hero Tahmurath, and Ts'ang Chieh, the Chinese patron of writing. The entrance on Independence Avenue (originally intended for the Copyright Office but never used) is marked by a grand, sculpted stairway complete with elaborate lamps and stylized owls. The male figure on the left door represents physical labor; the right door's female figure, intellectual labor.

When the Annex opened in 1939, it contained 180 miles of shelving (compared to 104 miles in the original building) able to

The John Adams Building

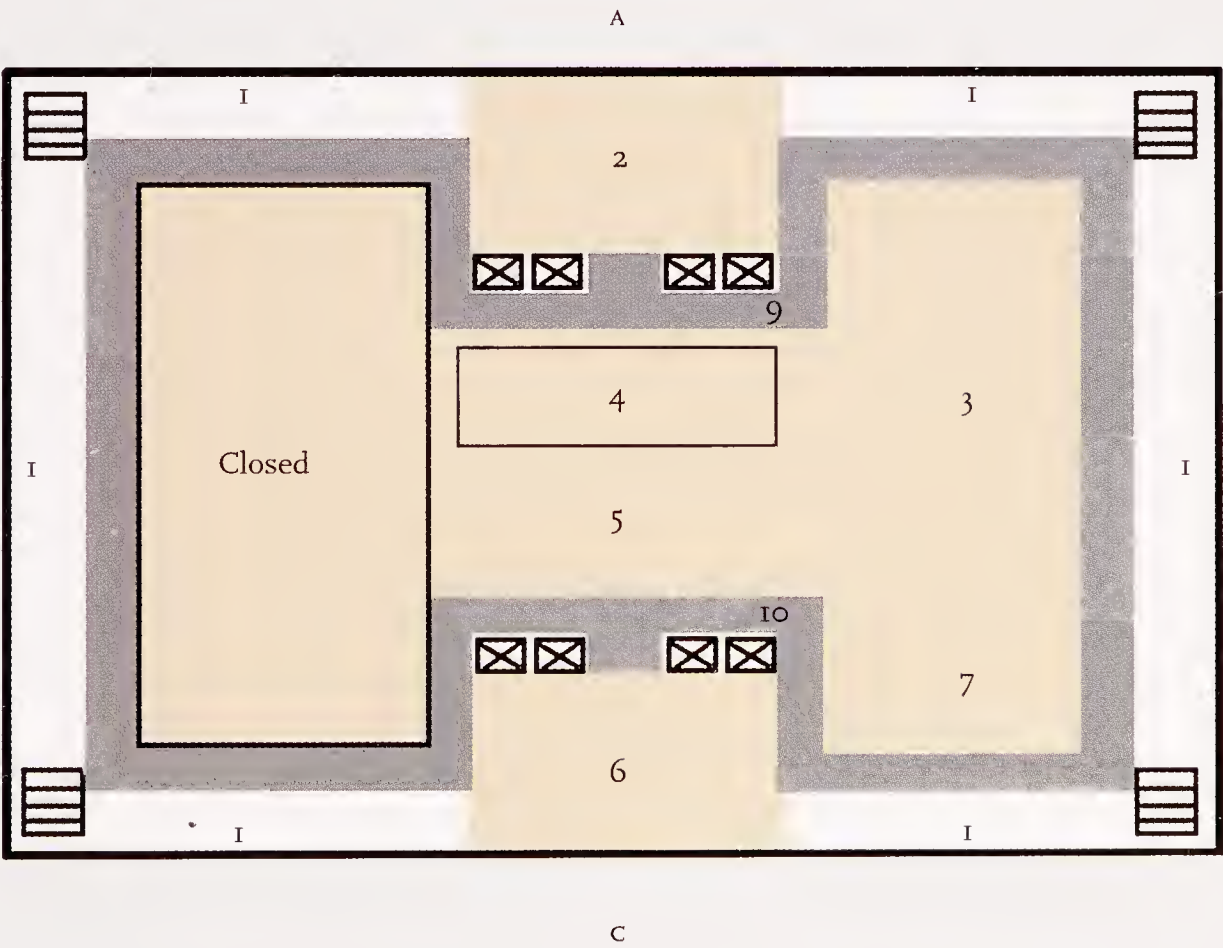
Ground floor

- 1 East Foyer
- 2 West Foyer
- A Third Street
- B Independence Avenue
- C Second Street
- D Folger Shakespeare Library



Fifth floor

- 1 Offices
- 2 East Foyer
- 3 Science and Technology Reading Room (Room 508)
- 4 Computer Catalog Center
- 5 Book Service Desk & Special Search
- 6 West Foyer
- 7 Business Reference Services (Room 508)
- 9 Women
- 10 Men
- A Third Street
- B Independence Avenue
- C Second Street
- D Folger Shakespeare Library



- ⊗ Elevator
- ≡ Stairs

THE EARTH BELONGS ALWAYS TO THE LIVING GENERATION
AND WHAT PROCEEDS FROM IT AS THEY PLEASE DURING THEIR USUFRUCT
TOO OF THEIR OWN PERSONS AND CONSEQUENTLY MAY GOVERN THEM AS THEY PLEASE



hold 10 million books. These shelves were arranged in twelve tiers of stacks reaching from basement to fourth floor, each tier providing thirteen acres of space. Although the storage spaces are closed to the public, visitors can admire the Aztec-inspired lobbies, hallways, fifth-floor reading rooms, and elevators. Glossy figured walls of American marble are capped by zestful zigzag patterns. Imaginative ornamental plants bloom on doors and walls and above fountains. Lee Lawrie both designed the interior metalwork and supervised production by the Flour City Ornamental Iron Company of Minneapolis.

The public experience culminates in the north and south reading rooms on the fifth floor, enlivened by four seventy-two-foot-long murals by Ezra Winter, who had earlier painted an acclaimed Art Deco mural for Radio City Music Hall in New York. Chaucer's pilgrims ride towards Canterbury in the north room, led by the miller piping them on their journey; the poet himself, with his back towards the observer, rides between the doctor of physic and the lawyer in the midst of the procession. The *Tales*' prologue—"Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote / The droghte of March hath perced to the roote . . ."—is inscribed above the Art Deco clock.

The south reading room is dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, for whom the Annex was briefly named, from 1976 until 1980, when it was renamed the John Adams Building to honor the president who approved the law establishing the Library of Congress. Artist Ezra Winter brought to life five passages from Jefferson's writings on the importance of freedom, the virtues of labor, the rights of the living generation, the value of mass education, and the role of the people in democratic government, with an additional lunette of Jefferson himself standing before his beloved home, Monticello. The figures are neither Aztec nor Greco-Deco: they are dressed in the clothing of their time. But the reading rooms are exuberant with Art Deco details, including handsome bronze lamps on each work table.

Although the Adams Building reading rooms are compact, they seat 480 people rather than the 196 accommodated by the original, more spacious Main Reading Room. In fact, they reflect one of the features that won praise for the building: its streamlined interior design, typified by its hallways, said to resemble Pullman cars. Technologically innovative materials included acoustical block, vitrolit, glass tubing—and formica, for which architects Pierson & Wilson won an award in a national plastics competition. Advertising material for formica declaimed it a way to create "imperishable beauty." In its clean lines, decorative ingenuity, and outstanding craftsmanship, the John Adams Building achieved just that.

Students studying in the Adams Building Reading Room, with one of Ezra Winter's Jefferson murals—this one including Jefferson's quote on the "living generation"—behind them. Photograph March 1943. Prints and Photographs Division.

Science, Technology and Business Division

The Library of Congress has always collected works of science, technology, and business. Thomas Jefferson's library included 500 volumes of natural philosophy, agriculture, chemistry, zoology, and technical arts; eighteenth-century experimental records; and hundreds of works relating to economics and commerce.

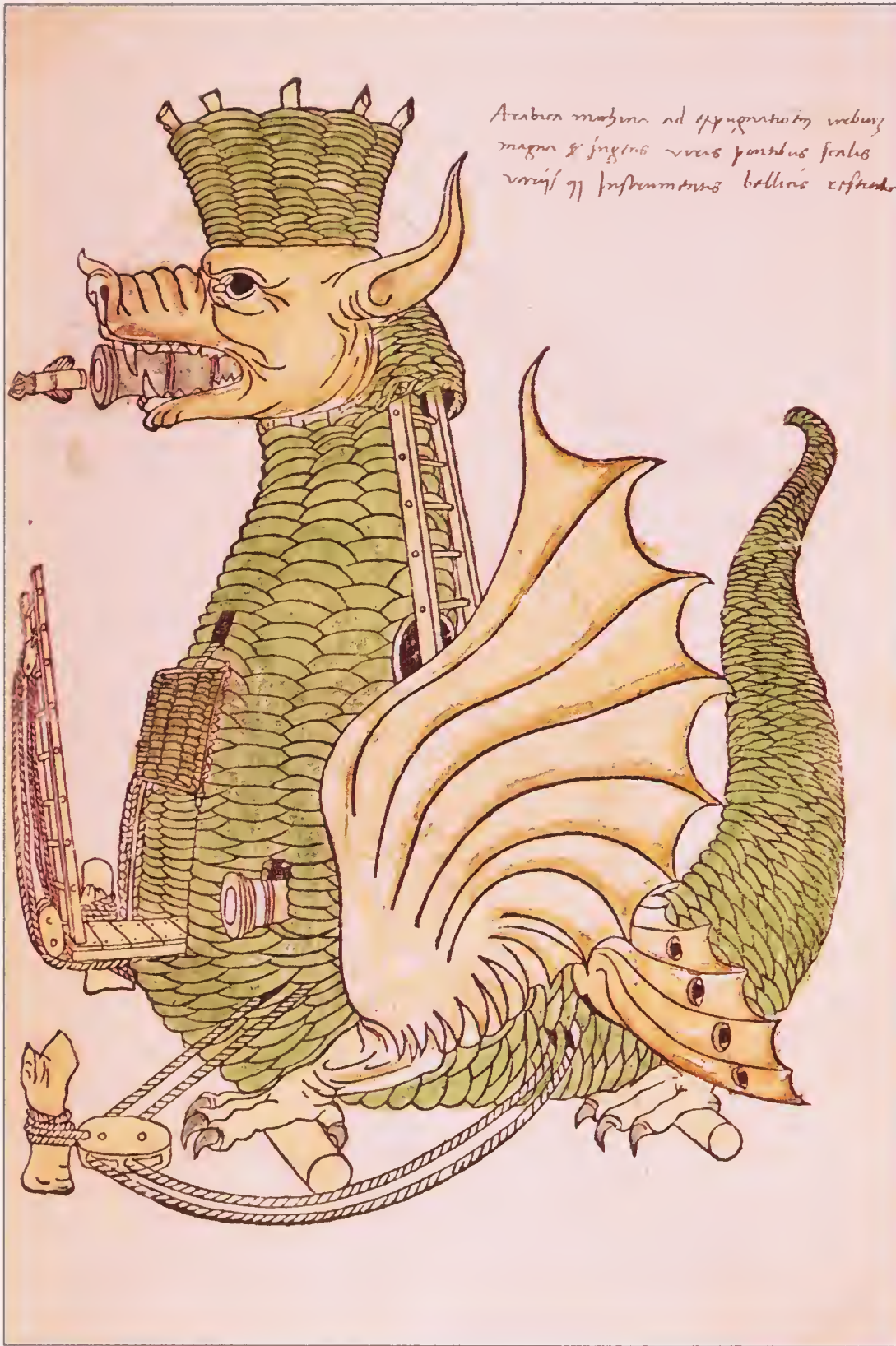
In 1866, an agreement between Librarian Ainsworth Spofford

and Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, ratified by an act of Congress, transferred the "Smithsonian Deposit" to the Library—

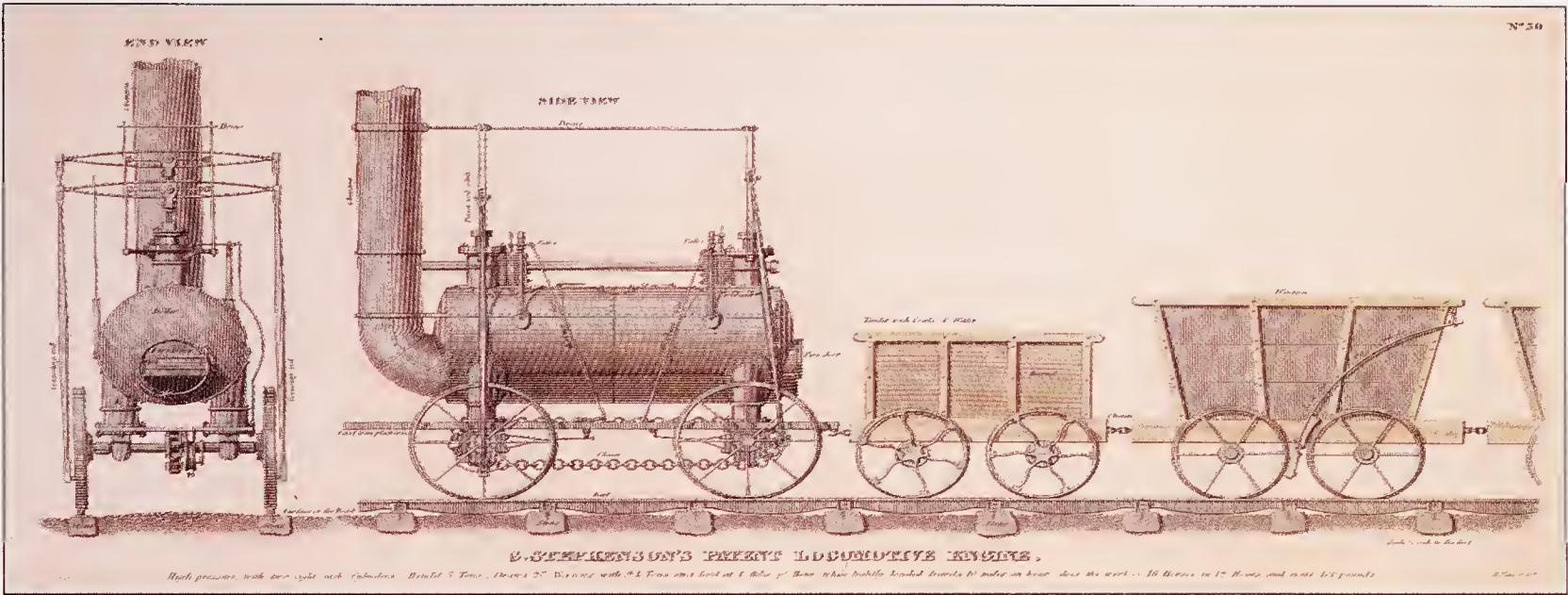
40,000 scientific books, memoirs, transactions, and periodicals of learned scientific societies, museums, exploring expeditions, and observatories throughout the world. In time, the Library would acquire such treasures and unique resources as first editions of Copernicus, Newton, and Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*; the papers of Samuel Morse, Alexander Graham Bell, the Wright Brothers, and Herman Hollerith, whose company became IBM; primary source materials on Alexander Hamilton and the founding of the First National Bank; and the wartime and postwar reports of the Atomic Energy Commission.

However, a separate Science Division was not established

until 1949, following the post-World War II boom in scientific research. In 1998, Science and Technology merged with the Business Reference Section to form the present Science, Technology, and Business Division (LA-508). Together, the collections in these subjects account for nearly 40 percent of the Library's total book and journal holdings, including 6 million U.S. and foreign technical reports and standards, of which 3.6 million are in the division's custody.



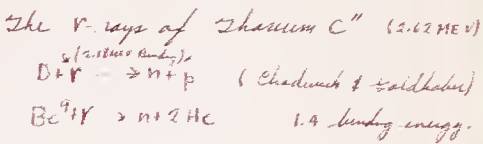
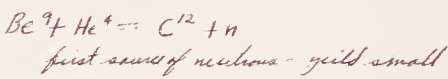
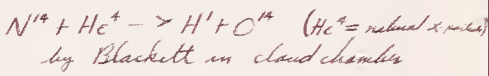
The first book printed with illustrations of a technical nature, *De re militari* by Roberto Valturio (1472) includes a number of depictions of fantastic weapons, such as this cannon-shooting, mobile dragon. Rare Book and Special Collections Division.



Nuclear Reactions and Stability
J. R. Oppenheimer - April 28 1941

Nuclear Reactions

First carried out by use of bombarding particles from natural radioactive substances.



In general we will want high energy particles, especially protons, to get into the nucleus. This can be done at energies less than the Coulomb barrier energy ($E_c \approx \frac{2 \times 10^{-14}}{(4.8 \times 10^{-10})^2} \times 10^6$) because of the wave effects which allow the particles to diffract through the barrier. There are often simple nuclear reactions produced by bombarding particles of energy less than the Coulomb barrier.

Although clinical medicine materials are housed at the National Library of Medicine, the Library of Congress has more medical books than most medical libraries, as well as collateral materials in such areas as alternative medicine, medicinal plants, and women's health. Likewise, although the National Agricultural Library has the main collection for technical agriculture, the Library of Congress has strong collections on other facets, especially on the economic and social aspects of agriculture.

The Library's technical reports and standards collection is the world's largest and contains many unique materials; for example, the Library maintains the only electronic bibliographic database to Russian standards in the world.

Typical business and economics reference services for Congress and the nation include in-person reference assistance from the 20,000-volume business reference collection and Internet terminals; assistance to entrepreneurs; practical information on everything from raising earthworms to computer repair; company, stock, and bond information for investors; and access to the Library's unique historical book and periodical collections and data sources in business and economics.

top
Benjamin Tanner, after William Strickland. C. Stephenson's Patent Locomotive engine. Engraving with water-color from Strickland, Report on Canals, Railways, Roads, and other Subjects, made to the Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Internal Improvements. Philadelphia, 1826. Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

above
J. Robert Oppenheimer. Nuclear Reactions and Stability. Equations on this page refer to English physicist Patrick M. S. Blackett's cloud chamber experiments of the 1920s and to the 1932 discovery of neutrons—which would prove to be the most useful particles for initiating nuclear reactions. Pen and ink. [California], April 28, 1941. Manuscript Division.



The James Madison Memorial Building

The Independence Avenue entrance to the James Madison Memorial Building as seen from gardens beside the Thomas Jefferson Building across the street. Photograph by Jim Higgins.

“**W**hat spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty & Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual & surest support?” wrote James Madison in 1822. Madison, to whom the third building of the Library of Congress is dedicated, was the first to suggest that a library be available to members of Congress: the Continental Congress, meeting in 1783 under the Articles of Confederation. He even prepared a list of books “proper for the use of” his colleagues, but his dream was not realized until 1800. After the British burned the collection in the War of 1812, then-President Madison secured Thomas Jefferson’s personal library for the nation. Thus, his belief in “Liberty & Learning” and his role in support of the Library, added to his service as statesman and “Father of the U.S. Constitution,” make it fitting that his memorial be a dynamic center of knowledge and culture. Originally planned as separate buildings—a Library annex and a Madison Memorial—the two were combined in 1965, and construction began in 1971.

The need for an additional building became critical in the 1950s, when the shortage of storage and work space was so acute that collections were housed in outlying airplane hangars and truck warehouses and staff was scattered throughout Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. By 1958—only twenty years after the Adams Building was completed—the information explosion that followed World War II had more than doubled the Library’s collections and staff. As Librarian L. Quincy Mumford told a Joint Committee of Congress, “We have reached the place where we are literally bursting at the seams.”

The response was to build the world’s largest library building. Designed by the architectural firm DeWitt, Poor, and Shelton, the Madison Building is a rectangular structure faced in marble and granite, whose columns pay homage to the classical inspiration of the Jefferson Building, and whose simplicity and polished surfaces harmonize with the Adams Building.

Unlike the Jefferson Building, the Madison Building is not a

highly ornamented “Temple of the Arts.” It is crisply functional, with extensive computer installations and every room wired for television and computer data transmission. The modular interior was planned for maximum flexibility; walls can be moved and rearranged. There is no specific stack area, since all floors are strong enough to support books at any point. Motorized compact shelving holds twice as many books as the same space of conventional shelving, sliding apart to provide access only when needed.

The visitor enters the building on Independence Avenue, under

a four-story bronze relief, “Falling Books,” by Frank Eliscu. To the left is the James Madison Memorial Hall, two stories high and lined with marble and teak; the centerpiece is a twelve-foot statue of Madison as a young man, holding volume eighty-three of the French *Encyclopedie Methodique*. Walter Hancock carved this work from a thirty-ton block of Italian marble, while Constantine L. Seferlis incised eight quotations from Madison on the paneled walls.

Opposite the hall is a sales shop. Between them, the visitor enters the main part of the building through a security checkpoint. An information desk is to the right. Ahead is a spacious area sometimes used for exhibitions, at the far side of which is the entrance to the National Digital Library Learning Center.



The Statue of James Madison, in the James Madison Memorial Hall. Photograph by Jim Higgins.

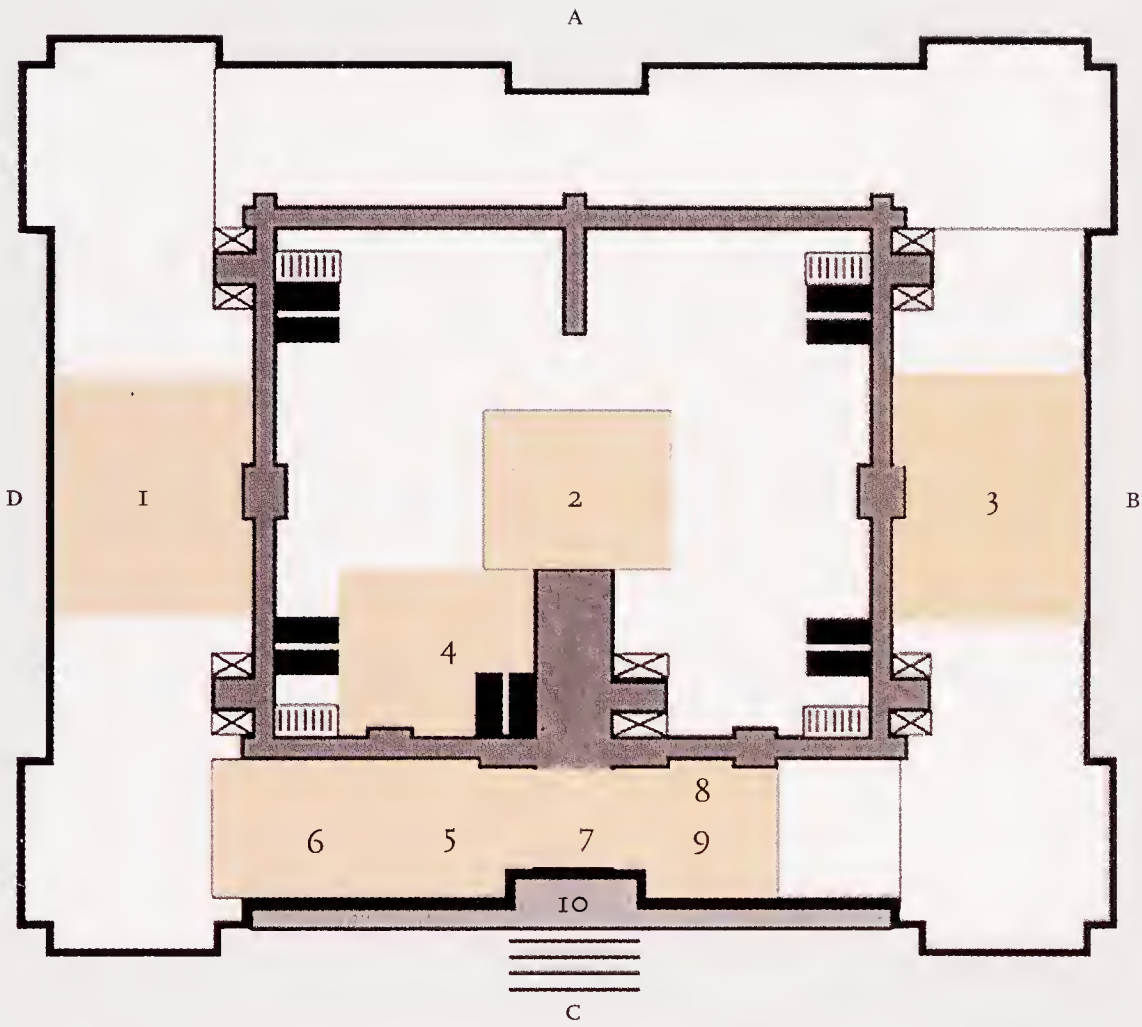
Divided into four color-coded quadrants housing special collections reading rooms, public service areas, a film theater, and lecture and meeting rooms, the Madison Building also houses the Library’s administrative offices, including that of the Librarian of Congress, and the Congressional Research Service, which is dedicated to providing nonpartisan, objective research, analysis, and information services to members and committees of Congress. A large cafeteria on the sixth floor attracts Capitol Hill visitors, who may also enjoy small exhibitions featuring materials from the Madison Building.

The James Madison Memorial Building

First Floor

- 1 Newspaper & Current Periodicals Reading Room (Room 133)
- 2 Digital Library Learning Center
- 3 Performing Arts Reading Room (Room 113)
- 4 Manuscript Reading Room (Room 101)
- 5 Madison Gallery
- 6 Reader Registration and Guidance Room (Room 140)
- 7 Madison foyer
- 8 Information desk
- 9 Gift Shop
- 10 Entrance

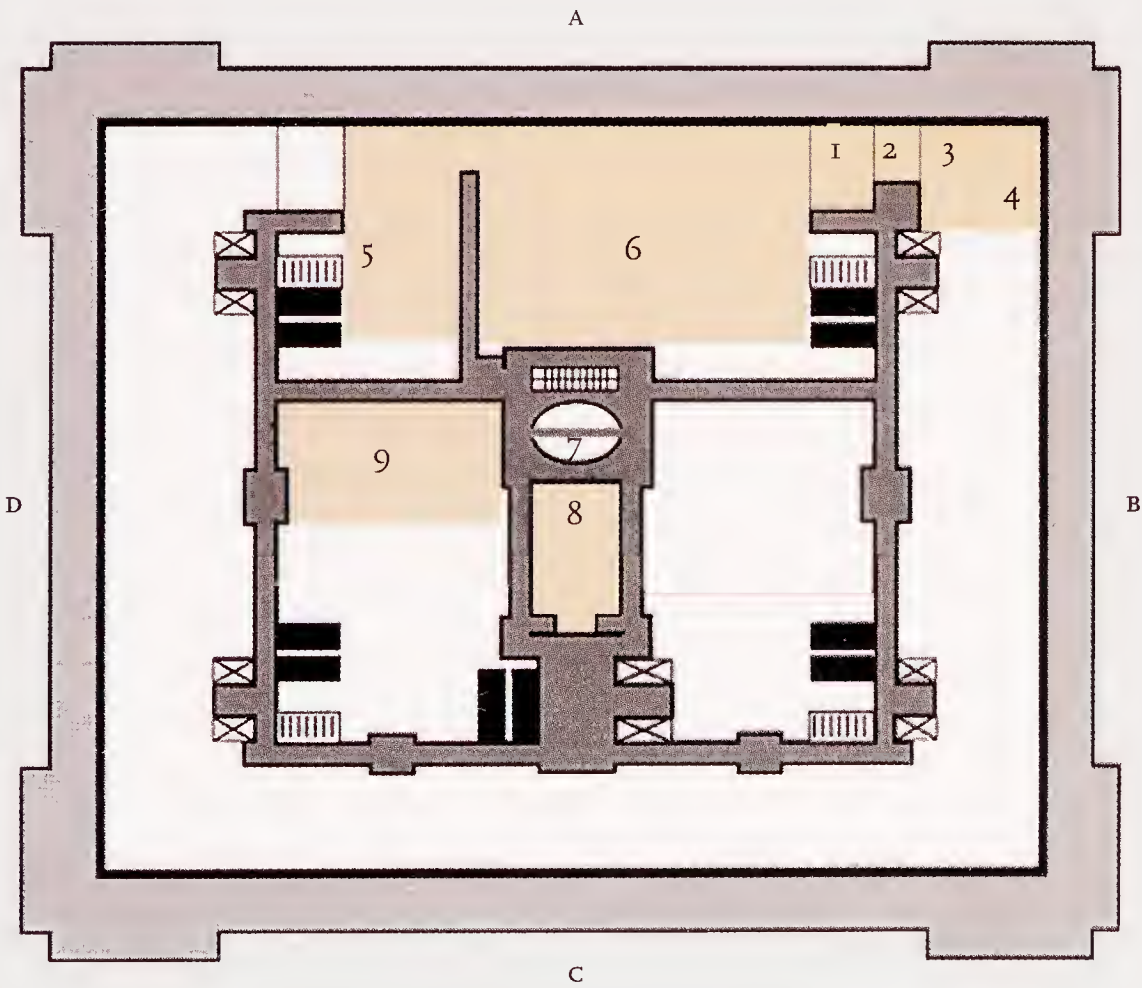
- A C Street
- B First Street
- C Independence Avenue
- D Second Street



Sixth Floor

- 1 West Dining Room (Room 621)
- 2 Dining Room A (Room 620)
- 3 Montpelier Room (Room 619)
- 4 Dining Room C (Room 619)
- 5 Cafeteria Entrance
- 6 Madison Cafeteria
- 7 Oval Gallery
- 8 Mumford Room (Room 649)
- 9 Library of Congress Federal Credit Union (Room 634)

- A C Street
- B First Street
- C Independence Avenue
- D Second Street



- ⊠ Elevator
- ▨ Stairs
- Restrooms

An exhibition about the history of the Copyright Office is on the fourth floor, and additional displays are at the entrances to the Performing Arts and Geography and Map reading rooms. Treasures from the Geography and Map Division are also displayed on the sixth floor: two late seventeenth-century globes—one celestial, one terrestrial—designed by Father Vincenzo Maria Coronelli (1650–1718) and made in Venice.



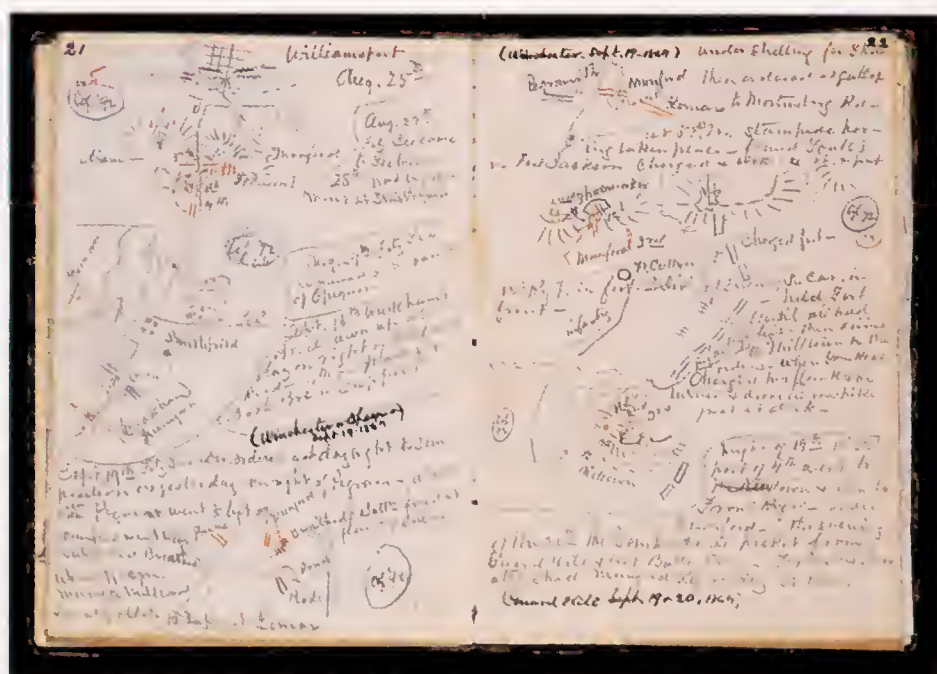
Terrestrial and Celestial Globes created by America's first globe maker, James Wilson. The two smaller globes date from circa 1820. The larger, 13-inch globe dates from 1811. Geography and Map Division. Photograph by Roger Foley.

The Mediterranean and Western Europe, 1559. Mateo Prunes. Vellum Chart Collection, Geography and Map Division.



Geography and Map Division

The Geography and Map Division (LM-BOI) houses the world's largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection. Begun in 1800 with the purchase of three maps and an atlas from a London dealer, the division was officially organized as the Hall of Maps and Charts in 1897 to serve Congress and federal agencies. But as the first director, Philip Lee Phillips, predicted in 1901, "this collection . . . will in time be of great value, not only to the cartographer, but also to the historian." The collection includes many treasures: Henricus Hondius' brilliantly colored world map, which first appeared in a 1633 atlas; a manuscript map of the Kingdom of Ethiopia, prepared by the court geographer in Addis Ababa "by order of the Regent" in 1923; powder horn maps from the French and Indian War (1754–63); and a 1543 terrestrial globe housed within a series of eleven interlocking armillary rings produced by German mathematician and geographer Caspar Vopell in Cologne. More recent additions include 1.6 million aerial photographs and remote sensing images, and state-of-the-art electronic maps.



The Library houses 4.5 million maps, 60,000 atlases, 700,000 microfilm images, 300 globes, and 2,000 terrain models.

The Geography and Map Division acquires 70,000 items per year—averaging 192 new items per day.

Genealogists and social historians often use the 700,000 large-scale Sanborn fire insurance maps detailing commercial, industrial, and residential properties in 12,000 American cities. Many city blocks have been remapped eight times since the maps first appeared in 1867.

Law Library

When the Library of Congress was established in 1800, works on law comprised nearly one-fifth of its holdings. Thomas Jefferson’s library, which re-established the Library in 1815, included 475 law titles in 639 volumes (in Jefferson’s now famous classification scheme “foreign law” encompassed not only continental European works but also laws of U.S. states outside of Virginia). Access to law books was deemed so important to the legislature that in 1816 a move began in the Senate to separate the law collection from the main library, and an Act of Congress to this effect was finally passed establishing the Law Library as a distinct department in 1832. The Justices of the Supreme Court, who gained use of the main Library in 1812, were made the administrators of the congressional Law Library, an arrangement that lasted until 1935, when the Supreme Court building was completed with its own library.



above left
George Washington's plan of
Alexandria, Virginia, 1749.
Geography and Map Division.

left
Jedediah Hotchkiss
(Confederate States of
America). Pages from the
sketchbook of the Second
Corps, Army of Northern
Virginia, in engagements of
1864–65. Pen and ink, pencil
and watercolor. Hotchkiss
Collection, Geography and
Map Division.

right
Royal cedula from Emperor
Charles V granting Hernando
Cortes a coat of arms. March 7,
1525. Edward Stephen
Harkness Collection,
Manuscript Division.

Law Library.

Normandie, which contains several intricate, gilded illuminations.

1

John Brachman on the other part; being thereunto depuied by the said Merchants, and the Retail Advenchuring as aforesaid; as appeareth by a Deed, bearing Date Nov. 6. 6 in the third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, &c. Anno Dom. 1637. B^e it Known therefore unto all Men by these presents, that according to our first intents, for the better effecting the glory of God, the enlargement of the Dominions of our said Sovereign Lord the King, and the special good of His Subjects; by virtue as well of our Combination aforesaid, as also the several Grants by us procured in the Names of *John Peerce* and *William Bradford*, their Heirs, and Associates; together with our lawful Right, in respect of Vacancy, Donation or Purchase of the Natives, and our full Purchase of the Adventurers before expressed; have given unto, Allocated, Assigned and Granted to all and every person or persons, whose Name or Names shall follow upon this publick Record, such proportion or proportions of Grounds, with all and singular the privileges therein belonging, as aforesaid, to him or them, his or their Heirs, and Alligies successively for ever; to be Holden of His Majesty of England, His Heirs and Successors, as is of His Munor of *Esq. Greenwich*, in the County of Kent, in free and common Socage, and not in Capite, no: by Knights Service; yielding and paying to our said Sovereign Lord the King His Heirs and Successors for ever, one fifth part of the Ore of the Mines of Gold and Silver; and one other fifth part to the President and Council, which shall be had, possessed and obtained as aforesaid. And whatsoever Lands are or shall be granted to any by the said *William Bradford*, *Edward Winslow*, *William Brewster*, *Dane Allerton*, their Heirs or Associates as aforesaid; being acknowledged in publick Court, and brought to the publick Records of the several Inherenances of the Subjects of our Sovereign Lord the King, within this Government; it shall be lawful for the Governour of *New-Plambs* aforesaid, from time to time successively, to give under the common Seal of the Government a Copy of the said Grants so Recorded; Confirming the said Lands to him or them, his or which Heirs and Alligies for ever; with the Exact bounds and Limits of the time, which shall be sufficient Evidence in Law from time to time, and at all times, for the said party or parties, his or their Heirs or Alligies; to Have and to Hold the said portion of Land so Granted, Bounded and Recorded as aforesaid; with all and singular the Appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the only proper use and behoof of the said party or parties, his or their Heirs and Alligies for ever.

The General

Anno. 1636. and Revised 1671.

Do Enact, Ordain and Continue; that no Act, Imposition, Law or Ordinance be Made or Imposed upon us at present or to come, but such as shall be Enacted by consent of the body of Freemen or Associates, or their Representatives legally assembled; which is according to the free Liberties of the free born People of England.

Laws to be
made by the
Freemen or
their representa-
tives.

2: And for the well Governing this Colony: It is also Resolved and Ordered, that there be a free Election annually, of Governour, Deputy Governour and Assistants, by the Vote of the Freemen of this Corporation.

Amwell: cho-
s. n by the free
men

3. It is also Enacted, that Justice and Right be equally and impartially Administred unto all, not sold, denied or causiously deferred unto any.

Justice to be
equally and
speedily admin-
istered.

4. It is also Enacted, that no person in this Government shall suffer or be indamaged, in respect of Life, Limb, Liberty, Good Name or Estate, under colour of Law, or countenance of Authority, but by Virtue or Equity of some express Law of the General Court of this Colony, or the good and equitable Laws of our Nation, suitable for us, in matters which are of a civil nature (as by the Court here hath been accustomed) wherein we have no particular Law of our own. And that none shall suffer as aforesaid, without being brought to answer by due course and process of Law.

None to suffer
but according
to Law.
and by due
course & pro-
cess of Law.

5. And that all Cases, whether Capital, Criminal, or between man and
man,

3.

ΠΩΣ,

The Copy being Imperfect most of these Errata's following happened hereby.

[illegible]



Among the items that came to the Library of Congress from the library of the Russian Tsars were illustrated books providing detailed instructions on the dress and comportment of Russian military forces. Several of these volumes are shown here, on a background of rare maps from the Geography and Map Division. Law Library. Photograph by Reid Baker.

The Law Library of Congress contains collections from foreign countries that are superior, in some aspects, to those maintained by the countries themselves.

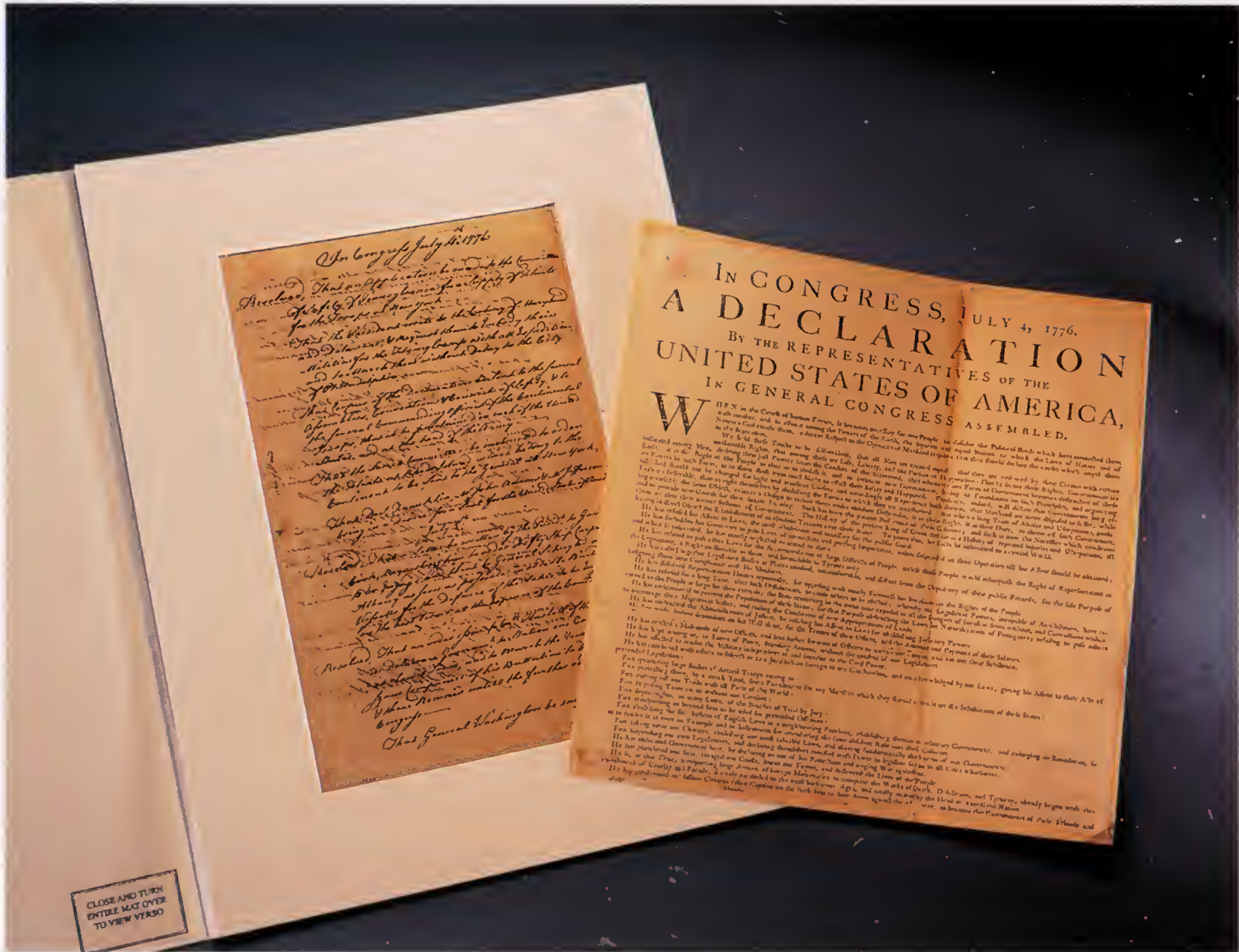
The Law Library's collections occupy fifty-nine miles of shelving.

The Law Library's Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) allows on-line access to a multinational legal database with countries contributing information from around the world.

Manuscript Division

It is “the duty of every good citizen,” Thomas Jefferson stated, “to use all the opportunities which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country.” Some of Jefferson’s manuscript collection relating to the early history of Virginia and the United States was included in the library he sold to Congress in 1815. The Manuscript Division (LM-101) was one of the departments established in 1897 when the Library moved from the Capitol to its own building. Then, it had 25,000 items; today, it holds 50 million letters, diaries, notebooks, accounts, logs, scrapbooks, press clippings, photographs, speech drafts, telegrams and other documents, organized in 11,000 separate collections. Most are personal papers of presidents and congressmen, authors and scientists, explorers and activists. Each holding is unique, many are priceless: Jefferson’s Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence, James Madison’s notes on the Constitutional Convention, Alexander Graham Bell’s first drawing of the telephone, and the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln’s own hand. But the Manuscript Division also preserves the words and experiences of ordinary individuals, including soldiers’ correspondence and slave narratives.

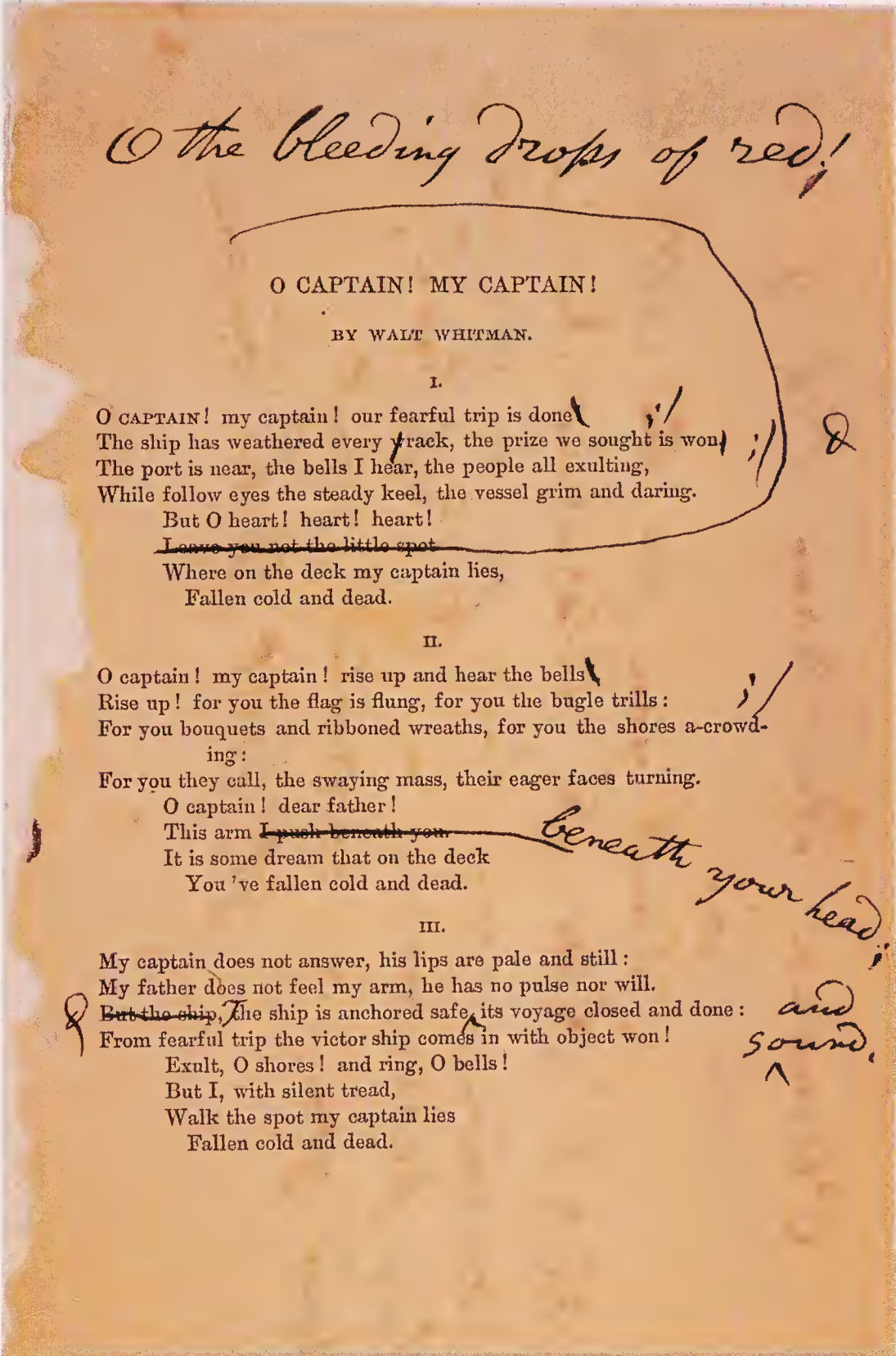
One of only twenty-four surviving copies of the first printed Declaration of Independence created on July 4, 1776, by the Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. This was George Washington’s personal copy, sent to him on July 6 by the president of the Continental Congress, John Hancock, whose letter is shown on the left. Manuscript Division. Photograph by Roger Foley.



right
Walt Whitman:
"O Captain, My Captain,"
with Whitman's corrections.
Manuscript Division.



Ethel Payne (left) and Alice Dunnigan, the second and first African American women, respectively, to be admitted to the White House press corps. Payne's many accomplishments as a print and broadcast journalist are reflected in the Ethel L. Payne Papers, Manuscript Division.



The Library's manuscript holdings are remarkably diverse. One random storage aisle contains 175,000 pieces from Sigmund Freud's files, and the letters of Lillian Gish, Samuel F. B. Morse, Alexander Graham Bell, Louis Untermeyer, and Daniel Chester French.

The Library holds the papers of twenty-three American presidents, from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge.

In 1900, the Manuscript Division began assembling one of the most comprehensive records of women's experience in the U.S., including the papers of those involved in the antislavery, suffrage, social reform, and labor movements.

following page
Two pages from "The Harriman Expedition: Chronicles and Souvenirs, May to August 1899" compiled during a scientific expedition along the Alaskan coast funded and accompanied by railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman. Manuscript Division.



Luis Ayarso & Verelst.
 off Cape Elizabeth, Me.
 July 22nd 97

To the Golden Crowned Sparrows in Alaska.

The minstrel in these barren hills,
 Where twilight-hours are long
 would sing thy woodland's fragrant days
 And weave thy plaintive song.

Had known thy nest of ashen gray,
 Thy coat of black and brown,
 The lines of jet upon thy head.
 Behold thy golden crown

We know thee in the cold White Pass,
 Where cloud and mountain meet;
 Again where forming glacial tide
 shines far beneath our feet.

I look on now on emerald heights,
 To catch thy faintest strain;
 But cannot tell if in thy lay
 there is more joy or pain.

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division

In 1893, W. K. L. Dickson deposited for copyright, on behalf of the Thomas Edison Company, a series of motion pictures titled *Edison Kinetoscopic Records*, inaugurating the world's first archival motion picture collection. In the following twenty years, thousands of movies were deposited as paper prints—movies contact-printed on paper rolls or strips—since the copyright law did not provide for protection of motion pictures until 1912 (many of these are now included in the division's Paper Print Collection). Thereafter, the Library returned the highly inflammable nitrate film to producers, keeping only paper-based materials on the copyright submissions. Only in 1942 did the Library recognize the importance of developing a national research collection of motion pictures and begin keeping selected films and acquiring others through donations. Today's film collection is the world's largest.

The Library began acquiring television programs in 1949—the first a “Hopalong Cassidy” feature—thus becoming a major televi-

left

The Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze is one of a series of short films made in 1894 by W. K. L. Dickson, a young Englishman who was one of Thomas A. Edison's best assistants. The star is Fred Ott, an Edison employee known to his fellow workers for his comic sneezing and other gags. Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

right

Ferdinand Joseph “Jelly Roll” Morton (1885–1941), generally acknowledged as jazz's first composer, considered himself the inventor of jazz. He probably wrote this manuscript score of the “Frog-i-More Rag” (Music Division) in 1908. The recording, made some forty years later, and the tinted photograph of Morton are from the Nesuhi Ertegun Collection of Jelly Roll Morton Recordings. Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Photograph by Roger Foley.





Clarabell the clown, a beloved character on the U.S. television children's show "Howdy Doody" (1947–1960), was played in 1949 by NBC staffer Bob Keeshan, who subsequently hosted his own show, "Captain Kangaroo." Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

sion archive. Television program acquisition expanded in 1966 to meet the growing demand for research materials. Major television collections held by the division include the NBC Television Collection, National Education Television Programs, and the Public Broadcasting Service Collection. The Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division also holds the nation's largest public collection of sound recordings, over 2.5 million items, comprising music of all kinds, radio broadcasts and the spoken word. The collection dates back to the beginning of commercial sound recording over one hundred years ago and consists of nearly every audio medium ever used, from wax cylinders to DVD compact discs. Although international in scope, the commercially published sound recordings are predominantly American in origin and contain an outstanding collection of pre-1900 recordings, operatic recordings and extensive holdings of twentieth-century American music of all types. Recently, the Library acquired 200,000 78-rpm popular and jazz music recordings and 40,000 long-playing jazz discs, creating an unparalleled jazz record collection. The audio collections also include cultural events recorded at the Library: scholarly talks; Music Division Concert Series recordings; and the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature and the Archives of Hispanic Literature on Tape, which, together, comprise readings by most major twentieth-century poets from the Western Hemisphere.





This annotated script of a December 7, 1941, news report on the bombing of Pearl Harbor includes the announcer's markings for emphasis. The NBC "program analysis" index card outlines all of the network's news broadcasts of that day, including the break in regularly scheduled programming to announce the tragic news (NBC Radio Collection). The microphone pictured was used by Joseph Nathan Kane to broadcast his Famous First Facts radio series of 1938. Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Photograph by Roger Foley.

Lobby card advertising On the Waterfront (Columbia/TriStar, 1954). Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

The Library has major motion picture studio collections from the pre-1951 nitrate era containing original camera negatives and other materials of classic Hollywood features and short films. These include Warner Bros., Columbia Pictures, RKO, Paramount, and Monogram. One of the most important holdings is that of the American Film Institute.

The Library's motion picture collection includes ethnographic films of Native Americans, movies originally intended for black audiences, features and newsreels confiscated at the end of World War II from Germany, Japan, and Italy, and the anthropological films of Margaret Mead.

A notable audio collection is the Emile Berliner Collection comprising disc recordings, scrapbooks, photographs, and laboratory notebooks of the man who created the commercial 78-rpm disc. Berliner's Gramophone Company, formed in Washington, D.C. in the early 1890s, was the basis of the British Gramophone Company (now EMI), Deutsche Grammophon, and the Victor Talking Machine Company (later RCA Victor).

Among the 500,000 radio programs held by the Library are collections donated by radio networks, performers, writers, and producers. The largest are those of the National Broadcasting company (NBC), the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS), the Office of War Information, the Voice of America, and National Public Radio.

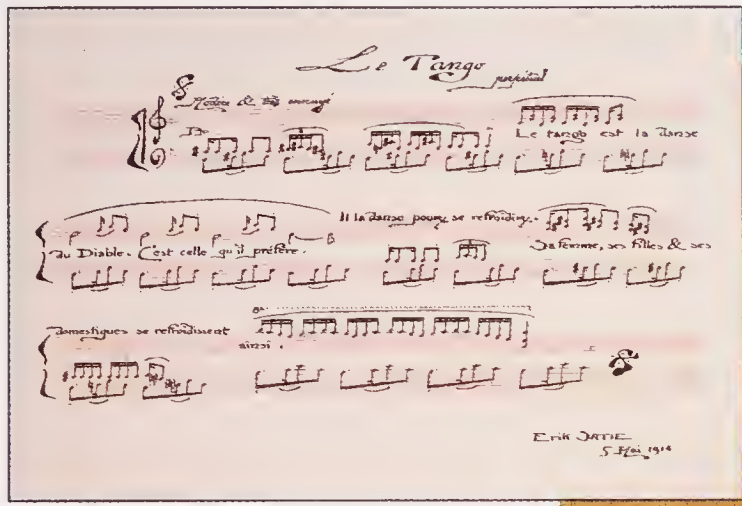




PAGANINI.

left
Caricature of Niccolò
Paganini (1782–1840) by an
unknown artist. Whittall
Foundation Collection.
Music Division.

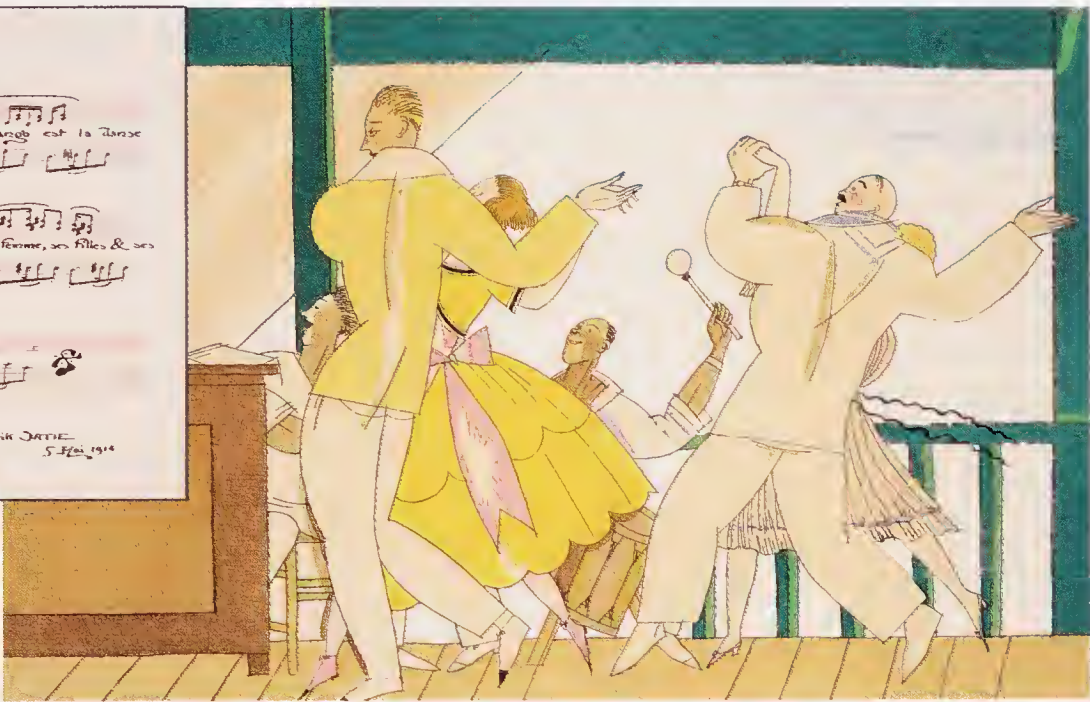
below and below right
"Le Tango," music from
Sports et Divertissements by
Erik Satie (1866–1925), a
stubbornly nonconformist
composer who delighted in



tilting at musical pomposity.
This volume of his works
includes twenty musical
miniatures on various diver-
sions, each accompanied by a
color illustration by Charles
Martin. The volume was a
gift to the Library from Ira
Gershwin. Music Division.

Music Division/Performing Arts Reading Room

The vast holdings of the Music Division (LM-113)—8 million items and growing—constitute a library-within-a-library of books, music manuscripts, printed scores, rare instruments, and ephemera related to music, theater, dance, and opera over 800 years. What began as thirteen books on music literature and theory from Thomas Jefferson’s library grew to 400,000 items (many of them copyright deposits) by the time the Music Division was formed in 1897. Between 1925 and 1935, two benefactors, Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge and Gertrude Clarke Whittall, donated major manuscript



collections and created foundations for musical performance and commissioning new works. Thus, the Library is uniquely able to support the creation of new music while adding the original manuscripts to its collections. One example is the score, by Aaron Copland, and the choreography, by Martha Graham, of *Appalachian Spring*, commissioned by the Library and premiered on October 30, 1944, at the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium. Other holdings include autograph scores by Beethoven, Mozart, and Prokofiev.

Cornet in E. Flat, c. 1855–65,
made of brass and nickel silver
and shown with period case
and manuscript part books.
Possibly imported from
Adolphe Sax et Cie of Paris,
the cornet was owned and
played by J. A. Hill of the
Clifton Springs (New York)
Community Band. R. E.
Sheldon Collection, Music
Division.



The Music Division houses more than 500 named collections. While some include only a dozen items, others, such as the Irving Berlin Collection, contain over half a million.

George Gershwin's first metronome, Victor Herbert's death mask, a lock of Beethoven's hair, and Paganini's handwritten recipe for ravioli are among the novelties in the division's collections.

One of the world's most extensive collections devoted to the history and performance of a single instrument—the Dayton C. Miller Flute Collection—is housed in the Music Division. Included are 1,600 flutes, a 3,000-volume library, printed music, and pictures.

The Library holds 252 music manuscripts by Franz Liszt and many of his hand-annotated printed scores. Original manuscripts by Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly join autographed scores and correspondence by Johann Sebastian Bach, Alban Berg, Anton Bruckner, Richard Strauss, and Richard Wagner. The Johannes Brahms holdings are the largest outside Vienna.

The achievements and development of American musical theater are celebrated in the Bob Fosse/Gwen Verdon Collection, the Oscar Hammerstein II Collection, the Leonard Bernstein Collection, and the George and Ira Gershwin Collection.



above
Cover of the sheet music for Irving Berlin's *Oh! How I Hate to Get up in the Morning* (1918). Irving Berlin Collection. Music Division.

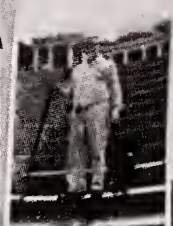
right
Giacomo Puccini. Detail from a leaf (Act II) of the composer's holograph score for *La Bohème* (1896). Moldenhauer Archives. Music Division.

opposite
William P. Gottlieb. Photograph of Duke Ellington, circa 1947. William P. Gottlieb Collection. Music Division.





DEEVE WATSON



Handwritten notes or a list on a piece of paper, possibly a script or a schedule, with several lines of text.

BABY POWDER

130-56

Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room/Serial and Government Publications Division

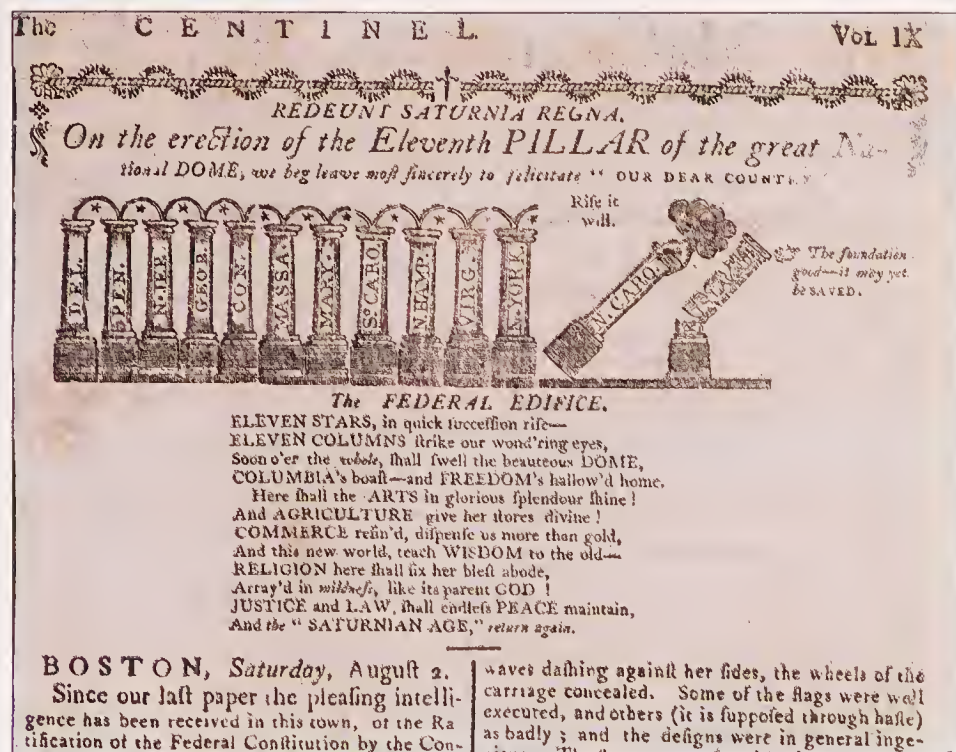
In 1830, Congress instructed Librarian John Silva Meehan to place the latest issues of periodicals on a special table “for the convenience of readers.” In 1867, a separate Periodicals Room was established for members of Congress, and three years after the Periodical Division was established in 1897, scholars could use a designated Newspaper-Periodical Room in the new Library building. The current Newspaper and Periodicals Reading Room is on the first floor of the Madison Building (LM-133).



An early postcard illustration of the Periodical Room in the first Library of Congress building.

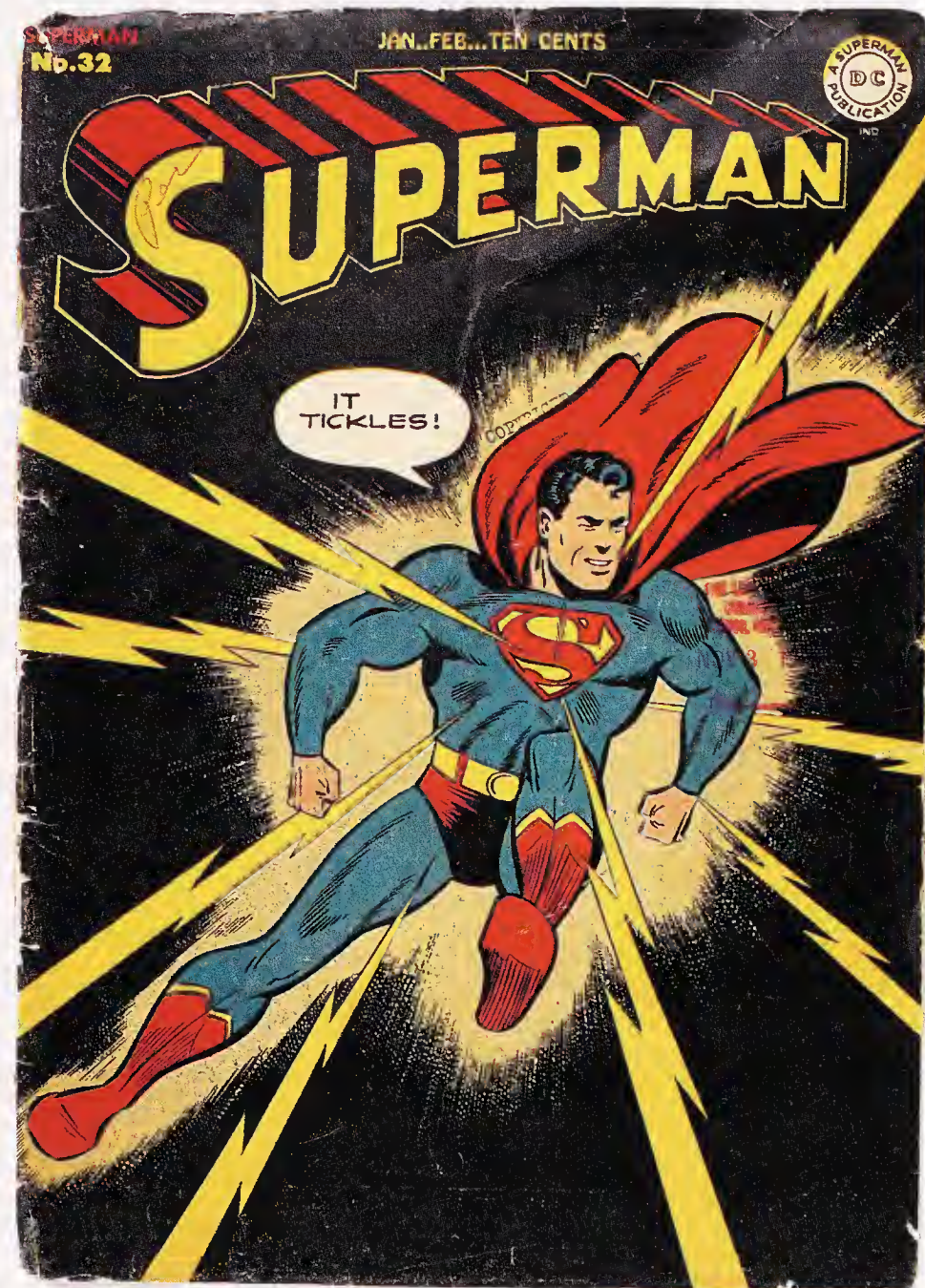
The Library acquires 1,600 current newspapers from around the world and holds 1 million loose issues, 33,000 bound volumes, and 500,000 microfilm reels. It also holds foreign and domestic newspapers back to the seventeenth century, with specialized microfilm copies of early English and American colonial newspapers, early African American newspapers, German and Japanese prisoner-of-war camp newspapers, and the Russian Revolution Newspaper collection. The Serial and Government Publications Division maintains 70,000 current unbound periodicals titles (bound periodicals may be obtained through the Main, Business and Science, or Microform Reading Rooms), and collects an array of American and foreign government publications.

Superman, number 32.
New York: Superman, Inc.
Jan.–Feb. 1945. Comic Book
Collection, Serial and
Government Publications
Division. (Used with
permission D.C. Comics).



"The Federal Edifice," woodcut from The [Massachusetts] Centinel, August 2, 1788. This rare eighteenth-century newspaper cartoon depicting the Federal Edifice shows New York becoming the eleventh

state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. When thirteen pillars were in place, the structure would be complete and the Union cemented. Serial and Government Publications Division.



Thanks to the law requiring copyright deposit, the Serial and Government Publications Division has acquired 100,000 comic books (5,000 titles), kept in special storage to prevent deterioration of the paper. The collection's oldest comic book is Popular Comics, published in February 1936.

The Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) collection comprises materials deposited with the Library of Congress under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972. The collection comprises 200,000 documents, including charters, annual reports, and background papers submitted to the Library of Congress by various committees, boards, commissions, councils, and other groups established to advise offices and agencies in the Executive Branch.

The Library's oldest original newspaper is Mercurius Publicas Comprising the Sum of Forraign Intelligence, December 29, 1659.

Prints and Photographs Division

The Library's interest in architecture and the fine arts began with Thomas Jefferson's collection of books on these subjects, and expanded to include the works of art themselves. The deposit of prints, photographs, posters, architectural drawings, and other graphic materials required by the Copyright Act of 1870 formed the foundation of the Library's American holdings; an 1898 gift by Gertrude Hubbard added European master prints by artists such as Dürer and Rembrandt. In 1900, a separate Division of Prints was created, renamed the Prints and Photographs Division in 1944 to acknowledge the Library's acquisition of documentary and art photographs.

Accessed by researchers via the Prints and Photographs Division Reading Room (LM-339), the collection includes more than 13.6 million images, ranging from the work of 200 artists of the "golden age" of American illustration (1870 through World War I), to photographic negatives of early American architecture, to editorial and political cartoons dating back before the American Revolution. Treasures include sixteenth-century chiaroscuro woodcuts, and thousands of drawings by Civil War artist-correspondents, including Alfred Waud.



*Daniel Hopfer (c. 1470–1536).
"Trumpeters." Fine Prints
Collection. Prints and
Photographs Division.*

Artist and illustrator James Montgomery Flagg (1877–1960) was his own model for this quintessential depiction of Uncle Sam in his World War I recruiting poster created in 1917. It is one of over 100,000 posters from all around the world in the Poster Collection. Prints and Photographs Division.



An unidentified Union soldier of the U.S. Civil War. Ambrotype, circa 1863–65. The Library's holdings on the Civil War are particularly rich. Prints and Photographs Division.





Edward S. Curtis photographed this Flathead Indian chief near the turn of the century as part of his thirty-year mission, begun in 1896, to “form a comprehensive and permanent record of all the important tribes of the United States and Alaska that still retain to a considerable degree their primitive customs and traditions.” Prints and Photographs Division.

Architect Cass Gilbert (1859–1934), whose work includes the Woolworth Building in New York City and the U.S. Supreme Court Building, created this water-color rendering of the Dome of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy at sunset. Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, Prints and Photographs Division.



The Prints and Photographs Division holds fine prints and drawings, cartoons, packaging labels, and posters; but photographic prints and negatives form ninety percent of its collection.

The Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), the Gottscho-Schleisner photographic collection, and collections of architectural drawings are among the materials that form one of the United States’ most comprehensive architectural archives.

The Prints and Photographs Division holds the archives of two landmark documentary photography projects undertaken by the Farm Security Administration (FSA) and the Office of War Information (OWI) from 1935 to 1943. Thousands of images by photographers such as Dorothea Lange, Gordon Parks, and Jack Delano capture the experiences of Americans throughout the country during the Depression and World War II.





Services to Congress and Libraries

The first copy of a Library of Congress catalog card was sold in 1901 for two cents and each additional copy, for 5/10 of one cent. In 1902, CDS's first full year of operation, 378,000 cards were sold. When card sales peaked in 1971, 74 million cards were purchased annually. Due to rapid technological changes, CDS catalog card sales declined to 360,000 in 1997—the final year of card distribution.

The first catalog card printed in the Library of Congress in 1898 was for Money in Squabs, a book by J. C. Long and G. H. Brinton.

The last printed catalog card, sold by CDS in 1997, provided information on the 1990 book War in the Pacific by Clark G. Reynolds.



Services to Congress and Libraries

previous page

A sweeping staircase leads from the plaza above the Neptune Fountain to the Main Entrance of the Thomas Jefferson Building. Public Affairs Office.

Cataloging has come a long way since the days of manual cataloging shown in this World War I era photograph—and that is a good thing, for the volume of books and other materials to be cataloged has continued to grow at an almost overwhelming rate. Prints and Photographs Division.

following page

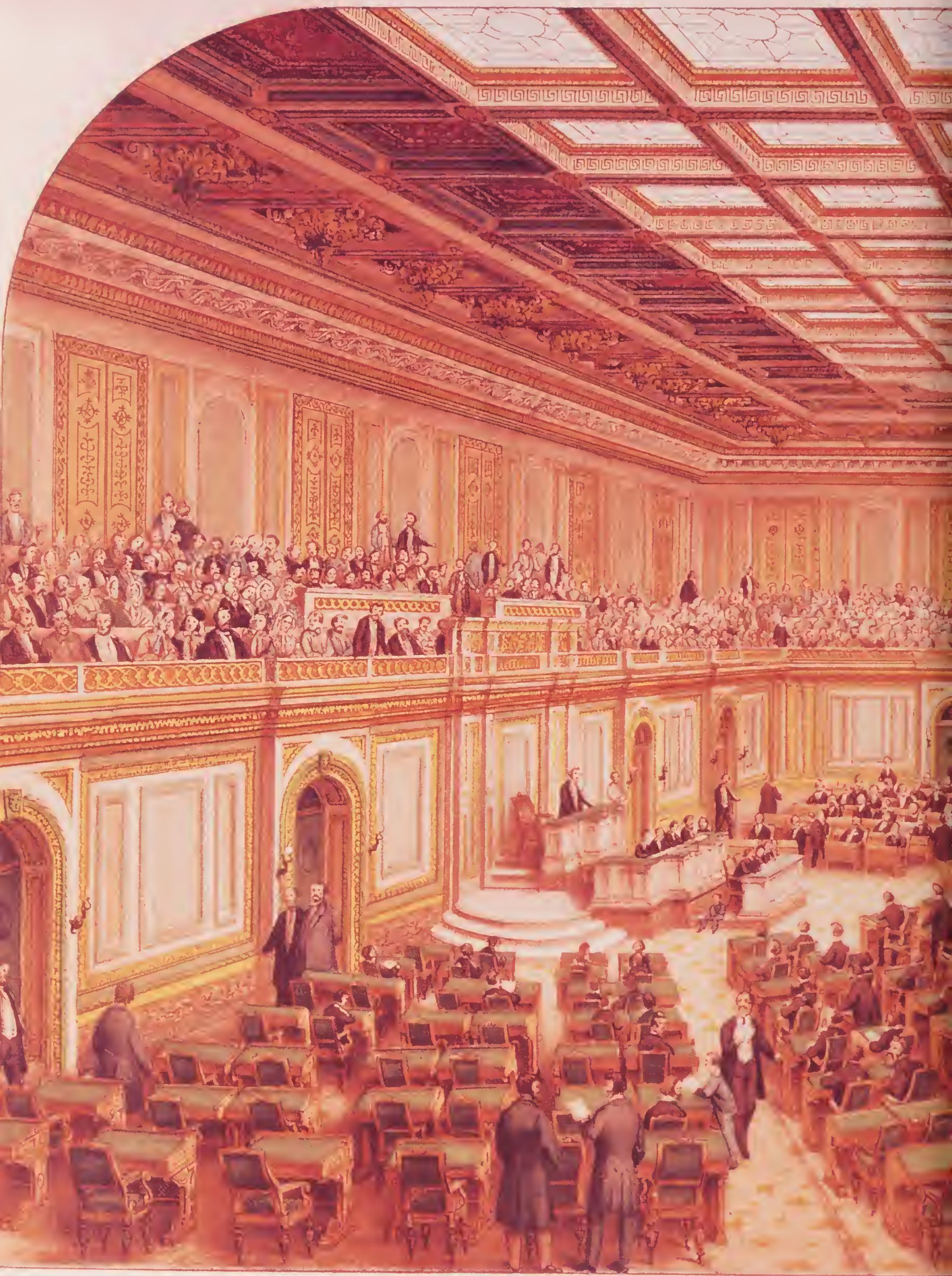
The House of Representatives, 1866. Lithograph by Sachse. Prints and Photographs Division.

The Library of Congress not only serves the public and members of Congress but, since the tenure of Librarian Herbert Putnam, other libraries throughout the world. The Library of Congress has often been a resource in times of emergency, participating in international efforts to assist libraries and archives devastated by fire, flood, and war. The Library's efforts have included aid to the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia; conservation assistance in Florence, Italy; and donations of microfilm copies of Kuwaiti publications to Kuwait after the Persian Gulf War.

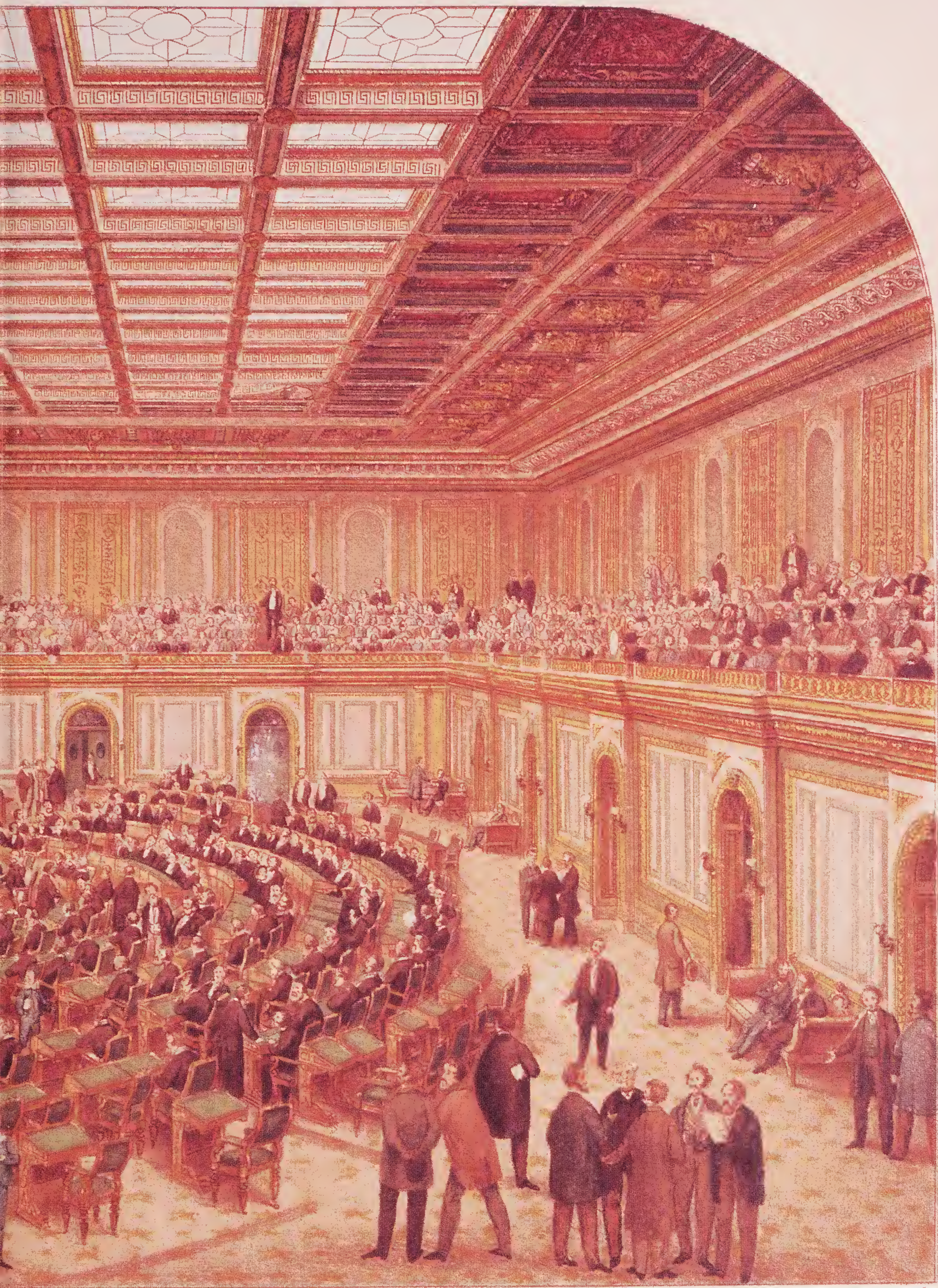
Cataloging Distribution Service

When a reader finds a book in any library in the world, the Library of Congress could well be guiding the search. Since 1901, the Card Division—which later became the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS)—has made the Library of Congress classification, subject, and cataloging systems available for modest prices to libraries and information providers worldwide, thus helping to keep information retrieval practices consistent from library to library.

Throughout the twentieth century, CDS has adapted to changes in technology, providing cataloging records in computer format as early as 1968. These Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC-format) records became the standard for libraries and allowed them to use the MARC format either to create catalog records or to add LC cataloging records to their local files. CDS also publishes standard subject and name information on microfiche, in machine-readable form, and in the five-volume “red book,” *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH). First published as one volume in 1909, LCSH now contains 245,000 up-to-date headings and references (including “Beanie Babies” and “DVD technology”). Other CDS publications include cataloging rules and application manuals, classification schedules from A to Z, training materials, cataloging tools on CD-ROM, and an Alert Service that allows researchers and librarians to be notified of the latest materials cataloged on pre-selected subjects.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE U.S. CAPITOL
IN 1850.

CDS serves the information needs of the Library of Congress and its world-wide constituencies by developing and marketing products and services that provide access to Library of Congress resources.

Congressional Research Service

If Congress has a question, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) provides the answer as quickly and objectively as possible. A descendant of the first “reference service” located down the hall when the early Library of Congress shared quarters with the nation’s legislature, today’s CRS was created by Act of Congress in 1914. The staff includes specialists in fields related to public issues, such as economists, social policy analysts, lawyers, scientists, and experts in defense, foreign relations, transportation, and education. They research, analyze, and provide information, and may need to answer time-sensitive queries that arise during congressional floor debate, or to prepare detailed, multidisciplinary reports on long-range issues. Topics range from banking and finance to campaign finance reform, clean air to biomedical research and applications, taxation to foreign policy to elementary and secondary education reform. The CRS response is nonpartisan and without recommendations.

As inquiries increase (the average was 400,000 questions per year in the early 1980s, 560,000 in 1998), the CRS uses sophisticated technology to access and disseminate information. Congressmen can receive information on more than 1,000 computer terminals in House and Senate offices or through CRS reference centers in each congressional office building. The *Legislative Alert*, a guide to CRS products addressing the bills and topics for floor action each week, is transmitted via electronic mail. CRS also trains new congressional staff in the legislative process through on-site and taped seminars and lectures.

Federal Library & Information Center Committee

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) was created in 1965 as the Federal Library Committee by joint action of the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget). Comprising the directors of the four national libraries (the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, the National Library of Education, and the National Agricultural Library) and representatives of cabinet-level executive departments, and legislative, judicial and independent federal agencies with major library programs, FLICC is headquartered at the Library of Congress and chaired by the Librarian of Congress. Through such services as FEDLINK (the Federal Library and Information Network), FLICC aims to achieve better use of federal

library and information center resources and facilities through professional development, promotion of services, and resource coordination.

Preservation and Conservation

From the moment anything enters the Library's collections, it receives the care required to preserve it. Printed items such as pamphlets and monographs are bound, newspapers microfilmed, motion pictures stored in refrigerated vaults, and manuscripts placed in temperature- and humidity-controlled storage. Acid is the worst enemy for papers manufactured since 1850; it makes paper weak and brittle, and pages eventually crack and flake away. The Library is a leader in developing and evaluating mass deacidification processes, and the Preservation Research and Testing Division researches paper permanence, longevity of photographic, magnetic, CD-ROM and other contemporary media, adhesives behavior, storage

conditions, and other problems affecting the Library's diverse collections—and other collections around the world.

The Conservation Division, renowned for its innovation, works on chemical stabilization and repair of maps, manuscripts, prints and drawings, books and photographs. This requires delicate skills and knowledge of chemistry. Creating the right storage environment is paramount. The Library's treasures are kept in cold temperature vaults with controlled humidity, protected by a complex security system and an ozone-friendly, non-aqueous fire suppression system. Four of the rarest treasures—Jefferson's Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's first and second drafts of the Gettysburg Address, and George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights—are preserved in inert gas within custom-made containers, designed to virtually eliminate chemical interactions.

Mary Wooten in the Library's Conservation Office treating the autograph manuscript of Arnold Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire. Photograph by Jim Higgins.



Since the 1980s, the Library, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, has spearheaded an effort to locate, catalog, and preserve newspapers published throughout the United States.

The Library's annual Preservation Workshop, begun in 1996, shares with the public techniques of handling, cleaning, conserving, and storing books, photographs, CDs, and family documents.





Public Programs and Services

A Book is the

This illustration is taken from the photograph "The Man Reading," by William Kurtz of Powell, Wyoming, a prize-winning entry in the "A Matter of Readers" photography contest sponsored by the American Library Association and the Center for the Book in Library of Congress during National Library Week in 1989. This poster was produced in 1989, the Year of the Young Reader, by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.



Best of Friends

Public Programs and Services

previous page
*Researcher Pablo Gonzalez
consults the reference collection
in the Hispanic Division
Reading Room, Thomas
Jefferson Building.
Photograph by Carol
Highsmith.*

An international resource for scholars and researchers, the Library also provides special programs and services to the public.

The Center for the Book

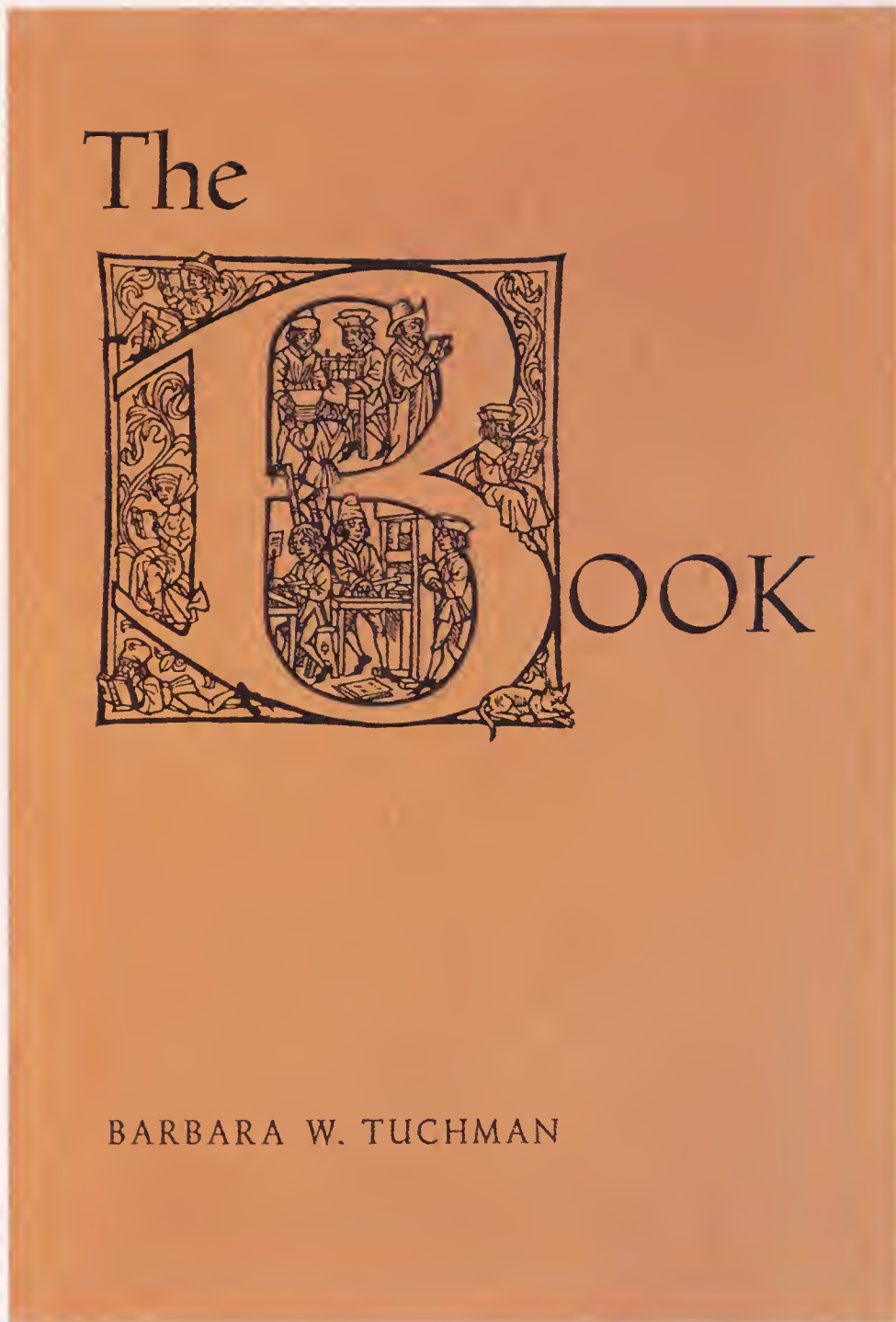
Established in 1977 by Public Law 95-129, the Center for the Book was created to “stimulate public interest and research in the role of the book in the diffusion of knowledge,” and to encourage a nationwide interest in promoting and studying books, reading and libraries. The center’s projects, symposia, lectures, exhibitions, and publications are funded primarily by private, tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations or by funds from other government agencies.

Within the Library the center—headquartered on the sixth floor of the Madison Building (LM-650)—is a focal point for celebrating the legacy of the printed word. The center also works closely with other organizations, in the United States and abroad, to foster understanding of the vital role of books, reading, libraries and literacy in society. Since 1984, the center’s efforts “to keep the book flourishing” have been helped by the creation of thirty-nine affiliated state centers around the country, and sixty national and civic organizations that have become partners. Using themes established by the Library of Congress, state centers develop activities that promote their own state’s books, libraries, and literary heritage.

Among the center’s noteworthy programs are its reading promotion campaigns, each on a particular theme, such as “The Year of the Lifetime Reader,” “Books Change Lives,” and, as its theme for the Library’s bicentennial, “Building a Nation of Readers.” Other center programs have included “Letters About Literature,” a student essay contest, and “Literary Heritage USA,” a celebration of the nation’s literary heritage through local and regional events. The center also has served as a national sounding board on the future of books and reading, first examining the issue in a congressionally authorized “Books in Our Future” study in 1983–84.

A Book is the Best of Friends. *This poster was produced for “1989– The Year of the Young Reader,” the Center for the Book’s first national reading promotion campaign. It is based on “The Magic of Reading,” a prize-winning photograph by William Kuntzman of Powell, Wyoming.*

The center's website (<http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/>) provides information about projects, forthcoming events, publications, links to state affiliates and to national and international organizations that promote books, reading and libraries, as well as a calendar of literary and reading promotion events taking place around the country.



Cover of The Book, a lecture presented at the Library of Congress in 1979 by historian and author Barbara W. Tuchman, an early member of the Center for the Book's advisory board. It is the first publication in the center's Viewpoint series.

The center's first symposium, sponsored with the U.S. Office of Education, also produced its first book: Television, the Book, and the Classroom (1978). Since then, the center has sponsored publication of forty-seven books, forty-one pamphlets, several research studies, and over a dozen posters.

The Center for the Book pioneered using television to promote reading. Its first projects were "Read More About It!" lists on CBS Television (1979–98) and, on ABC Children's Television (1984–95), "Cap'n O. G. Readmore," an animated cat who knows a lot because he reads a lot.

Children's Literature Center

"To serve those who serve children" has been the mission of the Children's Literature Center since it began as the "Children's Book Section" in 1963. This unique national resource provides information and assistance to librarians, educators, publishers, writers, illustrators, scholars, and the public on the wealth of juvenile materials—300,000 children's books, periodicals, recordings, maps, and illustrations—housed in the Library of Congress. These items are found throughout the general and special collections; for example, first editions of *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* are in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, maps for children in the Geography and Map Division, and television programs in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. The Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped holds children's books in Braille. Thus the Children's Literature Center serves as a starting point for access to the



"The Platypus" and "The Sloth," two illustrations by Oliver Herford for *A Child's Primer of Natural History*, Scribner's, 1899. Cabinet of American Illustration, Prints and Photographs Division.

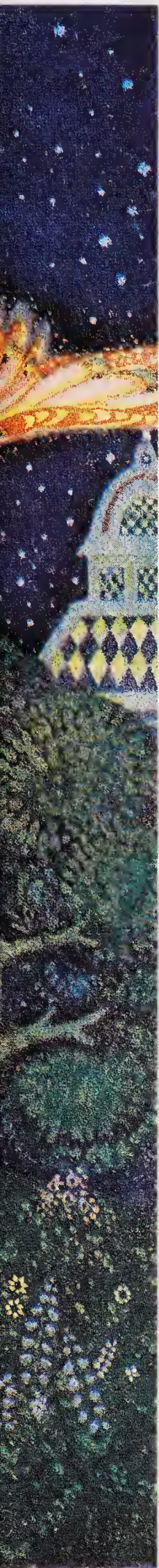
Library's holdings and for a search of children's literature in general.

The center formulates the Library's selection policy for children's books, recommends and acquires materials from foreign language bibliographies, dealers' and auction catalogs, and accepts gifts of children's books. The center's reading area in the Main Reading Room of the Jefferson Building (LJ-100) provides a reference collection for researchers.

The center organizes lectures, symposia, and exhibitions of children's literature, such as "Stepping Away from Tradition: Children's Books of the Twenties and Thirties," and "From Sea to Shining Sea—An American Sampler: Children's Books from the Library of Congress." It also issues publications related to its programs, including *Window on Japan: A Symposium* and *Some*



*"The Fire Bird," illustration
by Edmund Dulac from
Edmund Dulac's Fairy
Book; Fairy Tales of the
Allied Nations. London, NY:
Hodder & Stoughton, 1916.
Children's Literature Center.*



Paradoxes to Ponder: The Puzzling and Not Entirely Welcome Development of Children's Literature Since the Nineteen Sixties.

Though the center's general expenses are supported by government funds, special projects and activities are funded by private donations to the Children's Literature Center Fund.

During the U.S. occupation of Japan after World War II, Japanese publishers were required to deposit copies of their work at General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters. The Library acquired 1,500 Japanese children's books through this deposit.

The Library's children's book collection is one of the country's most comprehensive, making it a last, and sometimes unique resource.

The Library holds 20,000 rare children's books, one hundred of which are extremely rare. These include The Children's New Play-Thing (Philadelphia, 1763) and The Children's Bible (Philadelphia, 1763).

Concerts and Broadcasts

Thanks to the generosity and vision of two philanthropists—Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge and Gertrude Clarke Whittall—and several other benefactors, the Library of Congress has hosted thousands of chamber music concerts since the Coolidge Auditorium, an acoustic marvel, opened in 1925. In addition to those performances funded by the Coolidge Foundation, the Library hosts concerts supported by the Whittall Foundation that showcase the five Stradivari instruments donated by Mrs. Whittall in the mid-1930s. In 1940, the Budapest String Quartet, after fleeing Nazi Germany, became the first artists-in-residence to perform regularly with these instruments. Since 1962, the quartet-in-residence has been the Juilliard String Quartet, and the Beaux Arts Trio has been trio-in-residence since 1982. In 1992, the Library's Music Division inaugurated a jazz series, and concerts celebrating the division's special collections have featured music by the Gershwins, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, and other figures of American musical theater.

Many of the music foundations at the Library support the commissioning and performance of new works, and the Library has seen some historic musical premieres. Martha Graham, Aaron Copland, Artur Schnabel, Nadia Boulanger, George Szell, Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stokowski, Leontyne Price, and Samuel Barber are among the legendary artists who have appeared.

opposite

*The Juilliard String Quartet
rehearsing in the Coolidge
Auditorium. Music Division.
Photograph by Chad Evans
Wyatt.*

The Library also created the oldest chamber music broadcast series in the United States, now aired as *Concerts from the Library of Congress*. Starting with trial broadcasts from New York's NBC studios in 1930, the series evolved into live broadcasts from the Coolidge Auditorium in 1933. By the 1940s, broadcasts could be heard not only in the United States but also in Canada and Latin America. Now, millions around the world tune in for Library of Congress broadcasts.



*Martha Graham and Erick
Hawkins in the premiere of
Aaron Copland's Appalachian
Spring at the Library of
Congress, October 30, 1944.
Music Division.*

*The Library of Congress was the first national venue for creating,
presenting, and preserving chamber music.*

*The first national broadcast from the Coolidge Auditorium
(1933) featured the first American appearance of the Adolf
Busch String Quartet performing works by Beethoven, Busch,
and Pizetti.*





AUTOCHROMES

Color Photography Comes of Age

An Exhibit at the Library of Congress

February 1980-January 1981

Exhibitions

From holograph manuscripts of Sigmund Freud, to historic newspapers charting the civil rights movement, to plans for the innovative furniture of Charles and Ray Eames and films tracing America's popular culture, the Library of Congress Interpretive Programs Office (IPO) has drawn on the Library's treasures to mount exhibitions of great diversity and interest. The IPO maintains several permanent exhibits in the Jefferson Building, including the Treasures Gallery, opened in 1997, with a rotating selection of rare or revelatory items from the collections; the Swann Gallery of Caricature and Cartoon; the George and Ira Gershwin Room, a display of memorabilia and music associated with one of America's greatest composer-lyricist teams; and the Bob Hope Gallery of American Entertainment, which covers the major achievements of Hope and other entertainers. The IPO also installs temporary exhibits featuring significant holdings or celebrating particular events, such as the Thomas Jefferson exhibition, held to mark the Library's bicentennial in 2000, drawing on Jefferson's papers, books, and artifacts as well as twentieth-century materials to portray the complexities of his thought and influence. An outreach program provides exhibitions to other institutions throughout the world. Those who cannot visit the Library can view many of the exhibitions on the Library's website (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/>).

*"Autochromes." Poster
advertising a 1981 Library
of Congress Exhibition.*

Sigmund Freud's couch, a fifteenth-century travel guide to the Middle East, and a "Kazam!"—an apparatus built by Charles and Ray Eames out of scrap wood and a bicycle pump to mold plywood into chairs—have been exhibited at the Library of Congress.

"Revelations from the Russian Archives" was the first simultaneous exhibition of physical objects and their electronic surrogates presented by a library. It appeared on a Library "anonymous ftp" site in 1992 and on the World Wide Web in April 1996.

The Library travels some major exhibitions to other cultural institutions, including libraries, museums, historical societies, and galleries. Recent exhibits that have traveled world-wide include "Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture," "The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention," and "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic."

Film Showings

With the opening of the Mary Pickford Theater (Madison Building, Third Floor) on May 10, 1983, the Library began the screening of classic films from its diverse collection, including silent movies. Programs include movies from the National Film Registry, a list of American films selected by the Librarian of Congress from nominations by the public and members of the National Film Preservation Board. The Board comprises representatives from the major movie industry guilds, producers, film critics, educators, and archivists, and its members advise the Librarian on films that are culturally, historically, and aesthetically important. Annually since 1989 the Librarian has added twenty-five films to the National Film Registry, including *Casablanca*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Modern Times*, *The Bride of*

In 1995, the Library's James Madison Council funded a national touring program of films from the National Film Registry to promote awareness of the need to preserve America's film heritage. By late 1999, the tour had reached more than thirty states.

The Library holds an irreplaceable collection of dye-transfer Technicolor prints on safety stock, made between 1950 and 1954. These are the only color films not subject to fading, and the finest works have been shown in the Pickford Theater.

Frankenstein, and *Steamboat Willy* (the first Disney cartoon featuring Mickey Mouse).

Screenings in the sixty-four-seat Pickford Theater often complement exhibits in the Library, such as the showing of films by Charles and Ray Eames during the exhibition featuring items from the Eames Collection housed in the Library. Some of the film programs are introduced by filmmakers, critics, or scholars. There are also several "Jazz Film" programs each year. All showings are free to the public; due to the size of the theater, reservations are recommended.



Mary Pickford, actor and producer (1893–1979). Prints and Photographs Division.

Girl reading Noah's Ark in Braille. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.



In 1998, 22 million recorded and Braille books and magazines were circulated to a readership of 762,000 by the NLS.

The international Union Catalog currently contains 250,000 titles (22 million copies) of books for the blind or physically handicapped. The average reader borrows thirty-nine recorded books and magazines a year. Braille readers average fifteen books and magazines a year.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Now the Library's second largest service division (after the Congressional Research Service), the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) began as a talking-book program established by Congress in 1931 to serve blind adults.

The program, then called the Division for the Blind, expanded in 1952 to include children, and in 1962, Congress added musical materials, including scores, textbooks and books about music in Braille and large print; and elementary instruction for voice and various musical instruments.

In 1966, the program expanded to become the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving individuals with physical impairments that prevent the reading of standard print. At the same time, the offices were moved from crowded quarters in the Jefferson and Adams buildings to rental facilities on Taylor Street, in northwest Washington, where they remain.

With an annual budget exceeding \$46 million, the NLS now serves, free of charge, any resident of the United States or any American citizen living abroad who is unable to use standard print materials as a result of a visual or physical limitation. Materials selected for NLS circulation include in-demand items like

bestsellers, biographies, fiction, and how-to books, as well as titles in Spanish and current magazines. Registered borrowers learn of new books added to the collection through bimonthly publications. Available books are accessible to every network library via a union catalog on the Internet and on CD-ROM. Playback equipment is also loaned free to readers for as long as recorded materials provided by NLS and its cooperating libraries are borrowed.

The NLS is assisted by fifty-seven regional and eighty-one sub-regional U.S. libraries. An additional appropriation to the U.S. Postal Service allows books and materials to be mailed as Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped. Under a special provision of the U.S. copyright law and with permission of authors and publishers of works not covered by the provision, NLS selects and produces full-length books and magazines in Braille and on recorded disc and cassette.

Office of Scholarly Programs

Created in 1990, the Office of Scholarly Programs (LJ-120, accessible through Alcove 3) facilitates the exchange of information and ideas throughout the worldwide community of scholars using the resources of the Library of Congress. The office assists scholars from around the world with everything from obtaining visas to housing to negotiating their way through the materials at the Library. Since 1997, a "Scholars' Colonnade" off the Main Reading Room has provided long-term study space for researchers, including Mellon and Fulbright fellows, scholars supported by the International Research and Exchange Board, and American academics on sabbatical or engaged in special research projects.

The office also organizes formal colloquia, lectures, and symposia to present the fruits of scholars' research to the Library. These have included presentations on the neurosciences under the auspices of the "Decade of the Brain Project," cosponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institutes of Health, and two international conferences to celebrate the Library's bicentennial: "Frontiers of the Mind for the Twenty-first Century" and "Democracy and the Rule of Law." Other programs include the Bradley Lecture Series on books of special interest in citizenship, statecraft, and public policy, and assistance with the Ameritech National Digital Library Competition, which enables public, research and academic institutions to create digital collections of the Library's primary resources. The Office of Scholarly Programs also helps with staff training and evaluates the usefulness of the collections to scholars. By encouraging the pursuit and sharing of information among the wider scholarly community and Library staff, the office cuts across national, disciplinary, and institutional boundaries to expand the frontiers of knowledge.

Charles Locke, "The Library."
Lithograph, 192?. Fine Prints
Collection, Prints and
Photographs Division.

The Scholars' Colonnade is a melting pot of disciplines and nationalities; it has accommodated researchers from, among other countries, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Syria, Togo, Israel, and the Philippines.

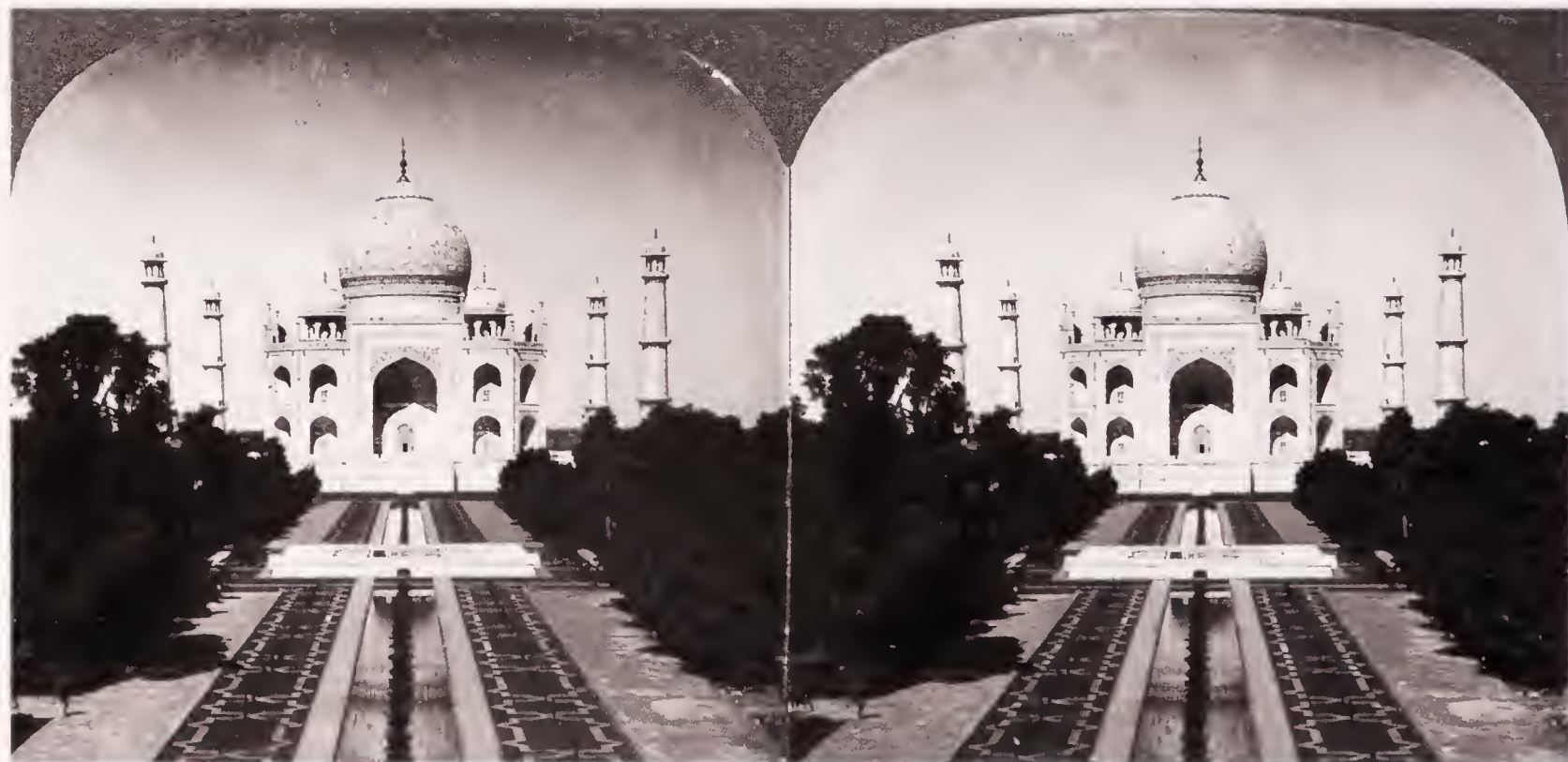
Scholars use the Library for information beyond the bounds of American history and culture. Subjects researched by visiting scholars include contemporary Chinese drama, the experience of Japanese soldiers during World War II, Rwandan history, and the dilemma of modernization in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Iran.



Library of Congress Photoduplication Service

The Photoduplication Service (PDS) of the Library of Congress (John Adams Building, LA-129) is a fee-for-service program responsible for copying items from the Library's collections. Established in 1938, with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation earmarked for "competently supplying distant investigators with microfilm and other photoduplicates of materials otherwise not available for use outside of Washington," PDS has expanded the scope of its activities as demand and the number of photoreproductive formats have risen. Today, as part of the Library's Preservation initiative, PDS provides access to virtually all collections of the Library through photographic and digital services. An expanding range of materials (including non-English) from the Library's collections have been photographed or reformatted in digital or microform, and most are for sale. Restrictions on availability for duplication are based on physical conditions of the materials, copyright limitations, and legal restrictions on particular collections.

A photographic copy of this 1906 stereo slide of the Taj Mahal (Prints and Photographs Division) can be acquired from the Photoduplication Service by citing its Library of Congress negative number (LC-USZ62-113606).



PDS services are designed to assist scholars, publishers, and members of the public who visit the Library and use its collections on-site. Work is also underway to make photoduplication services available over the Internet. The PDS website (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/preserv/pds/>) provides information on services and fees; the PDS e-mail address is photoduplication@loc.gov.

Poetry and Literature Center

Since 1936, when Archer M. Huntington endowed “the Chair of Poetry of the English Language,” poetry has been a visible and dynamic force at the Library. During Archibald MacLeish’s tenure as Librarian from 1939 to 1944, the Consultant in Poetry became an annual appointment. Joseph Auslander was the first to fill the post, followed by a virtual Who’s Who of American literature, including Robert Penn Warren, Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Frost, and Gwendolyn Brooks. In 1986, the consultancy was given additional status by the U.S. Congress, which changed the position to Poet Laureate, Consultant in Poetry. Howard Nemerov, Rita Dove, Robert Hass, and Robert Pinsky are among the Poets Laureate who have served since then.

The Poet Laureate not only organizes readings at the Library, but also promotes poetry through readings and presentations throughout the country. He or she has offices in the Poetry and Literature Center (LJ-AO2), which administers the oldest reading series in the

Washington, D.C. area, and one of the oldest in the United States. The series began in the 1940s, and since 1951 has received almost exclusive support from the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundation. It features fiction as well as poetry readings, lectures, symposia, and occasional dramatic performances.

Poet Laureate, Consultant in Poetry Rita Dove. Publishing Office. Photograph by Fred Viebahn.



Poetry Consultant Maxine Kumin in the Poetry Room of the Library of Congress with a fourth-grade class from a Washington elementary school, December 11, 1981. Publishing Office.



Joseph Auslander, the first Library of Congress Consultant in Poetry. Photograph circa 1940. Publishing Office.

The Favorite Poem Project, headed by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, records citizens across the United States reciting their favorite poems for inclusion in the Library's Archives of Recorded Poetry and Literature. The project was organized to celebrate the Library's Bicentennial in 2000 and is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Center for the Book.

The Poetry Lounge in the Jefferson Building was furnished with antiques donated by Gertrude Clarke Whittall.

Public Affairs Office

The Public Affairs Office is the Library's link to national and local media, fielding 2,500 press calls in 1998 alone. The office directs publication of the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* and the *Calendar of Events*, plus the weekly staff newsletter, *The Gazette*. It also liaises with *Civilization*, the Library's award-winning bimonthly magazine, and administers the Library of Congress (LOC) Associates, a national membership program that offers behind-the-scenes tours with exhibition curators and docents, discounts at Library shops and the Montpelier Room buffet, and subscriptions to *Civilization*. Although the Public Affairs Office does not answer individual questions about visiting or using the Library, it does help LOC Associates, greeting thousands of members who come to the Library each year. It also holds primary responsibility for the Library's World Wide Web home page, the most popular venue for obtaining current information on collections, exhibits, and events.



Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg at the Library of Congress, 1960. Publishing Office.

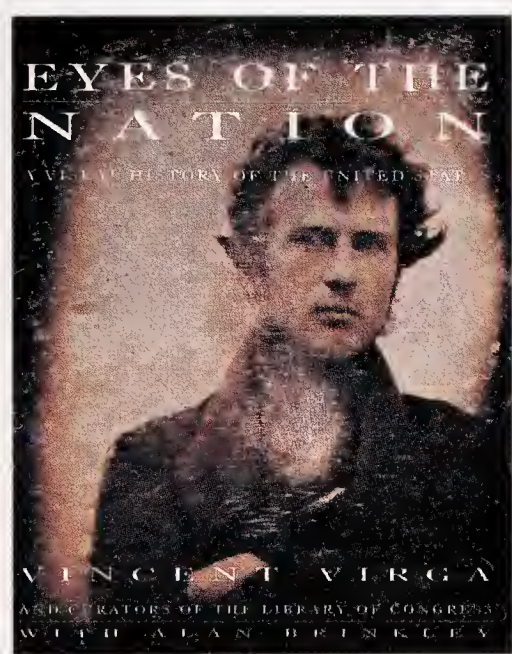


Publications

Publishing at the Library began in 1801 with the Library's first booklist. Approximately eighty publications, mostly catalogs and annual reports, were issued before 1897, when the Library moved from the U.S. Capitol into its own building. In this century, the Library has produced thousands of publications, including cataloging manuals, technical bulletins, specialized bibliographies, pamphlets, serials, books in Braille, catalogs, indexes, union lists, descriptive guides, scholarly monographs, and the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal*, published from 1943 to 1983. The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* also began publication in 1943 and continues as a monthly publication describing the Library's activities and collections for an outside audience.

With the Library's rapid expansion in the twentieth century, publishing at the Library became a decentralized and diverse enterprise: in 1994, a survey concluded that the institution's departments and divisions were currently producing approximately 1,100 publications. Two events that same year demonstrated a new direction in Library of Congress publishing brought about by the computer revolution, cost restraints, and a new emphasis on national outreach services. In October, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced private gifts of \$13 million to help the Library digitize its Americana collections, the beginning of a large-scale effort to make a variety of materials from the Library's huge collections available in electronic form. Then, after several

Among the Library of Congress publications produced in cooperation with private publishers are *Eyes of the Nation* (Knopf) and *The Sketchbooks of Hiroshige* (Braziller). Publishing Office.



years of development, the first issue of *Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress* was published. A bimonthly membership magazine for a general audience, *Civilization* is published under a license by the New York-based L.O.C. Management Corporation. The November-December 1994 inaugural issue reached more than 150,000 subscribers.

The National Digital Library Program and *Civilization* are public-private partnerships, a valued resource in the Library's campaign to maintain its collections and expand its services in a time of fiscal constraints. Many of the books produced by the Library in the last several years—primarily through the Library's Publishing Office, the major source of general-interest publications about the Library and its collections—have been produced in cooperation with private publishers. (Recent titles include *Eyes of the Nation: A Visual History of the United States*, *Freud: Conflict and Culture*, *American Treasures in the Library of Congress*, *Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty* and *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress*.) Private publishers also help publicize the Library's collections and services through more ephemeral materials, such as calendars, posters, address books, and postcards. (See the Library's Publications Web site, <http://www.loc.gov/loc/pub/index.html>).

In combination with specialized publications produced by various divisions, from the Cataloging Distribution Service to the Copyright Office, the materials published both in print and electronically via public-private partnerships vastly increase public accessibility to the Library's collections and services.

Reference Referral Service

The Reference Referral Service (LA-5117), begun in 1991 as the National Reference Service, is the gateway to using the resources of the Library of Congress when local and regional libraries do not have the required information. The service responds to 65,000 questions per year. Researchers are encouraged to consult smaller libraries before contacting the Reference Referral Service, however, where most of their questions can be more quickly and specifically answered. Telephone questions are usually referred to local libraries unless they deal directly with the Library of Congress's collections, services, and programs. Researchers are sometimes referred to the Library Web page, which answers the most frequent questions, such as whether the books at the Library are digitized (the majority are not). Inquiries should include information about sources already consulted.

The United States Copyright Office

The vital relationship between the Copyright Office (LM-401) and the Library of Congress was built upon the bedrock of the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8), which gives Congress the power to enact laws establishing a system of copyright in the United States—"copyright" means, literally, the right to copy. Congress enacted the first copyright law in May 1790, and clerks of U.S. District Courts recorded the first claims. However, no coherent system for tracking or maintaining the artifacts submitted with claims existed. Realizing the potential of a lasting partnership between the Library's need for comprehensive collections and the Copyright Office's indispensable function, Librarian of Congress Ainsworth

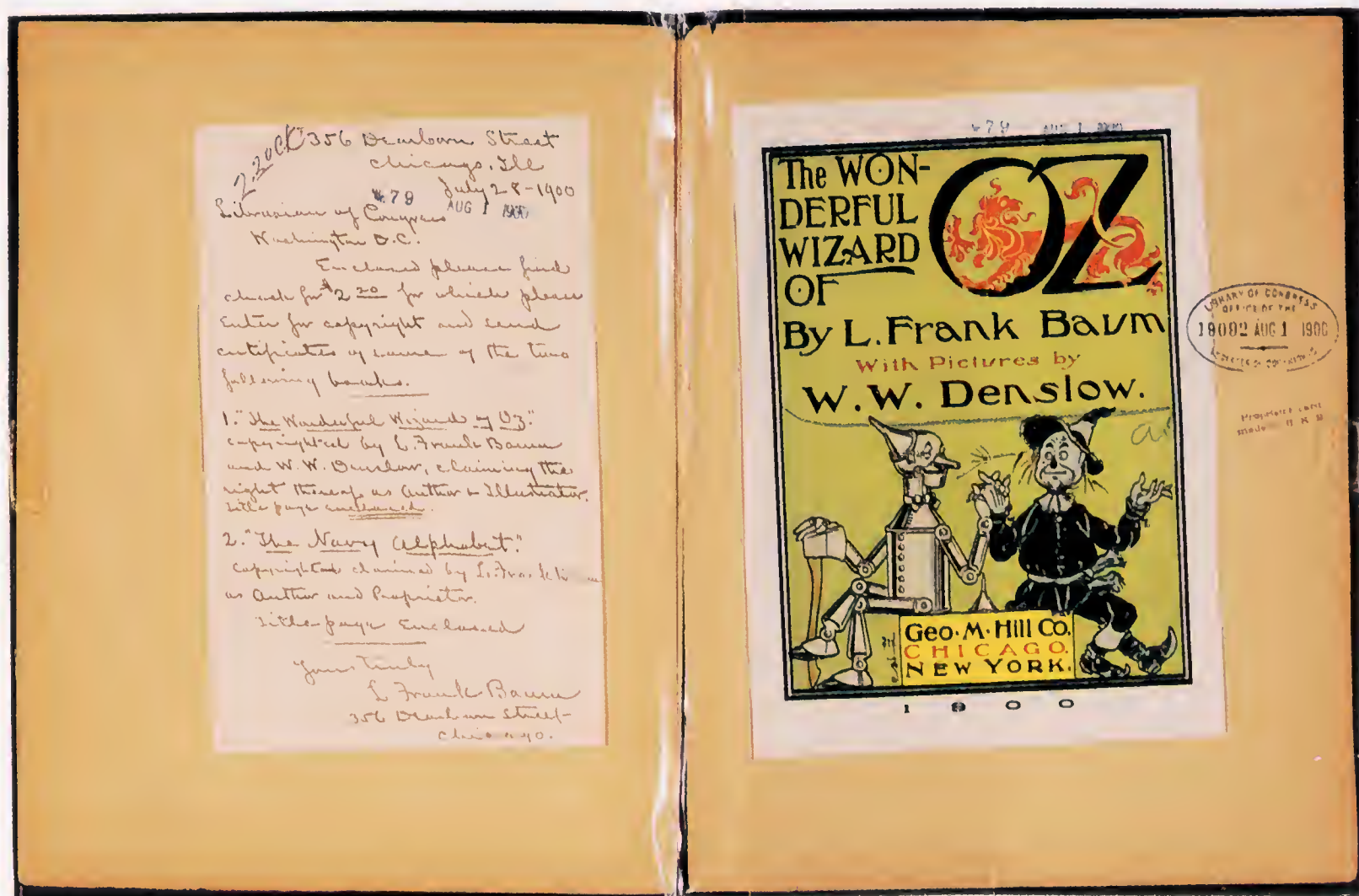
In 1874, Samuel Clemens wrote to Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford requesting copyright for a new pamphlet by "Mark Twain." Rare Book and Special Collections Division.



Elmira, N. Y.
May 7, 1874.
A. R. Spofford Esq
Dear Sir:
I enclose
design of a Pamphlet Cover,
upon which I desire a
copyright.
Also, the title-page
of the Pamphlet — upon
the Contents of which I
likewise desire Copyright.
Fees (\$1.00) enclosed.
Very truly yrs
Saml. L. Clemens.

Rand Spofford pushed for binding legislation. In 1870, Congress passed a law that centralized the copyright system in the Library and required all authors to deposit in the Library two copies of every book, pamphlet, map, print, and piece of music registered in the United States.

The Copyright Office became a separate department of the Library of Congress in 1897, coinciding with the move to a new building. Copyright protection now covers original works of authorship which include literary, dramatic, musical, architectural, cartographic, choreographic, pantomimic, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, sound recordings, and motion pictures and other audiovisual creations. The archives maintained by the Copyright Office are an important record of America's cultural and historical heritage. Containing nearly 41 million individual cards, the



Another stellar copyright applicant was L. Frank Baum, who wrote to the Librarian of Congress on July 28, 1900, to request copyright for two items: *The Navy Alphabet* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the first truly American fairy tale. Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Copyright Card Catalog housed in the James Madison Memorial Building is the world's largest card catalog and comprises an index to copyright registrations in the United States from 1870 through 1977, after which electronic files of U.S. copyright registrations may be consulted. Much of the literary, musical, artistic, and scientific production of the United States and of many foreign countries is recorded here, providing an important supplement to the Main Catalog of the Library of Congress as a research tool.

Today the Copyright Office is one of the major service units of the Library of Congress, employing 480 people.

The Copyright Office annually processes and registers 550,000 claims.

The Copyright Office has handled 28 million copyright registrations and transfers since 1870.

Visitors' Services

General information about the Library of Congress is available at the public entrance to each building. Public tours begin at the Visitors' Center in the Jefferson Building (First Street entrance), where an open-captioned film about the Library is shown four times an hour. The Library's cafeteria, on the sixth floor of the Madison Building (LM-625), serves breakfast and lunch, and a coffee shop on the ground floor of the Madison Building is also open to the public. The Montpelier Room buffet, near the sixth-floor cafeteria, is open on weekdays during lunchtime. Sales shops run by the Retail Marketing Office are at the First Street entrance of the Jefferson Building and the main entrance of the Madison Building.





Preserving the Past,
Informing the Future:
The Library of Congress
in the Digital Age

15
54. th Shy not the Peacock, looking every where about you, to see if you be well Deck'd, if your Shoes fit well, if your Stockings sit neatly, and Cloths handsomely.

55. th Eat not in the Streets, nor in y^e House, out of Season.

56. th Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you Esteem your own Reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad Company.

57. th In walking up and Down in a House, only with One in Company if he be Greater than yourself, at the first give him the Right hand and Stop not till he does and be not the first that turns, and when you do turn let it be with your face towards him, if he be a Man of Great Quality, walk not with him Cheek by Jowl but somewhat behind him; but yet in such a Manner that he may easily speak to you.

58. th Let your Conversation be without Malice or Envy, for 'tis a Sign of a Tractable and Commendable Nature. And in all Causes of Dispute, wil Reason to Govern.

59. th NEVER express any thing unbecoming, nor Act ug^{ly} if Rules Moral be p^r your inferiours.

60. th Be not unmodest in urging your Friends to Discover a Secret.

61. th Utter not base and frivolous things amongst grave and Learned Men; nor very difficult Questions or Subjects, among the Ignorant or things hard to be believed, fluff not your Discourse with Sentences amongst your Betters nor Equals.

62. th Speak not of Goleful Things in a Time of Mirth or ill the-
sable; Speak not of Melancholy Things as Death and Wound, and if others Mention them Change if you can the Discourse till not your Dreams, but to your intimate Friend.

63. th A Man should not value himself of his Achievements, or of his Qualities as Virtue or Pinned.

Preserving the Past, Informing the Future: The Library of Congress in the Digital Age

previous page
*Automated Reference Services
Librarian Elizabeth L. Brown
acquaints visitors with the
Library of Congress Internet
Web pages in the National
Digital Library Learning
Center, James Madison
Memorial Building.
Photograph by Carol
Highsmith.*

“The collections of the Library belong to all Americans, not just those who can make the trip to Washington,” Librarian of Congress James H. Billington declared in a 1996 interview. “By making freely available millions of unique items from our nation’s history by the year 2000, citizens everywhere will be able to share in the American experience.” Thus began a new era in service and accessibility to the Library’s collections. Through a combination of foresight, willingness to experiment, and public-private enterprise, the Library has become a leader among large institutions making collections available via the World Wide Web. The Library’s Web site—with sections devoted to its own collections, catalogs, and exhibitions; to legislation from Congress; and to information from the U.S. Copyright Office—is now one of the most frequently used in the world; between 1996 and 1999, the number of monthly “hits” on the Library’s Web site increased from 25.8 million to 80 million. As the new millennium begins, the Library of Congress on-line attracts 4 million transactions each workday.

The Library’s commitment to sharing resources on-line began in the 1960s, when it led the effort to develop a standard format for Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC), the foundation of on-line library catalogs. From 1982 to 1987, the Library instituted the Optical Disk and Video Disc pilot projects, able to store and retrieve massive quantities of text and images in several custodial divisions. Building on these pilots, a method was developed to allow access via catalog records to visual collections throughout the Library.

Similarly, from 1989 to 1994, the American Memory pilot project reproduced selected Library collections and primary sources of American history and culture for dissemination on disk to schools and libraries nationwide. These included such treasures as the Gettysburg Address and Thomas Jefferson’s Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence (showing edits by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin); photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company (1880–1920) and the Farm Security Administration

*A young George Washington
faithfully copied these Rules of
Civility—good practice in pen-
manship and deportment. It is
one of the treasures now avail-
able to browsers of the Library’s
Web pages. Manuscript
Division.*

(1930s and 1940s), daguerreotypes, U.S. Civil War photographs, and notebooks in Walt Whitman's own hand.

Starting in 1994, three of the American Memory photograph collections were made available over the Internet and were greeted with enthusiastic response from researchers, students, and kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade teachers, as well as from other institutions. Building on this momentum, and supported by the private sector, Congress, the vice president of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the National Digital Library Program (NDLP) was formed in October 1994.

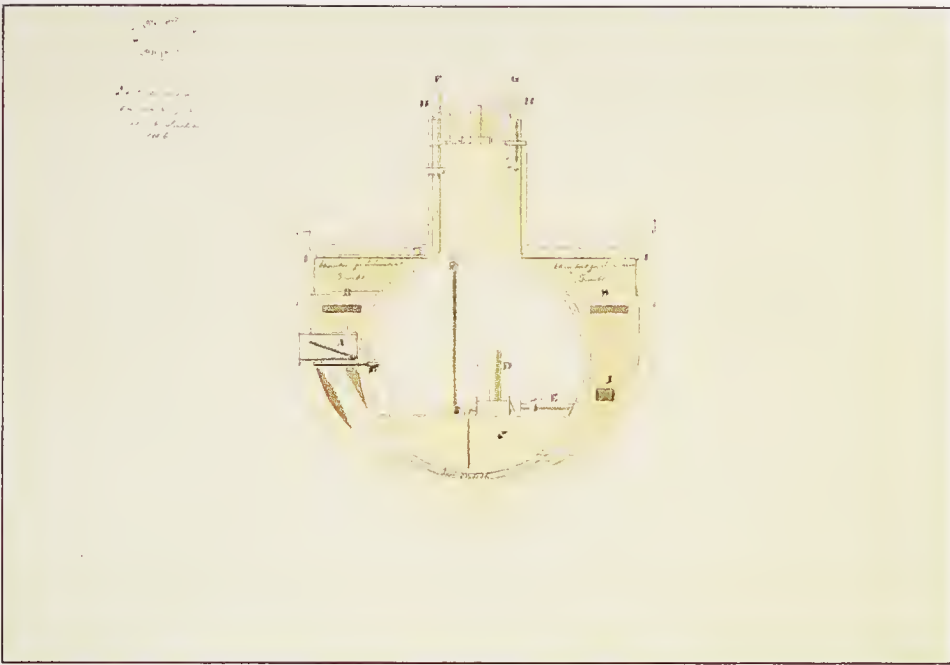
The National Digital Library Program

Established to assemble a core of American historical and cultural primary source material in digital form, and using the American Memory pilot as a foundation, the National Digital Library Program identified two hundred of the Americana collections at the Library as candidates for conversion, then made these accessible to the general public, educational institutions, and other libraries. After the five-year NDLP launch period, the Library had 5 million American history items on-line or on CD-ROMS.

The on-line collections reflect the breadth of the Library of Congress collections. Readily accessible, they allow people around the globe to grasp the complexities of American history, from the country's revolutionary beginnings as reported in the papers of those who helped build the foundations of the United States; to

Baseball cards are among the most popular items accessible via computer. Here's the lineup for the Brooklyn Superbas in 1911. Prints and Photographs Division.





Submarine or “plunging boat”
invented by Robert Fulton.
Plate the second, showing
chambers for submarine bombs
and lead ballast. Engineering
drawing showing a section
through the vessel. Graphite,
ink, and watercolor washes,
by Robert Fulton, 1806.
Architecture, Design and
Engineering Collections, Prints
and Photographs Division.

the amazing growth and changes in the nation as revealed in panoramic photographs taken between 1851 and 1964; to the national game of baseball, represented by a colorful collection of historic baseball cards plus photographs and artifacts of the careers of Jackie Robinson and other baseball greats.

The voices of America are heard in recorded songs and speeches: the Edison Companies’ recording of Euday L. Bowman’s 12th Street Rag performed

by the Imperial Marimba Band provides the punchy rhythms of the 1920s; World War I American Expeditionary Force commander General John J. Pershing’s appeal for civilian support from his headquarters in France invokes the atmosphere of the war; and, after that conflict ends, former secretary of the U.S. Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt defines “Americanism” in a speech that concludes with the poignant words, “it shall not happen again. Americans demand: the crime of war shall cease.”

Early motion pictures reveal the early days of animation; provide a vivid record of an earthquake-devastated (then rebuilt) San Francisco; show factory workers at their jobs in 1904; and provide glimpses of the Spanish-American War—the first U.S. war in which the motion picture camera played a role. The engineering and design genius of Robert Fulton and Frank Lloyd Wright are witnessed by their drawings; scientific genius is represented by the sketches of Alexander Graham Bell and materials from the Library’s Wilbur and Orville Wright Collection; and aspects of music are presented in William Gottlieb’s photographs from the Golden Age of Jazz and items from the Leonard Bernstein Collection.

The Library’s growing on-line collections are testimony that “history” is more than a word, a collection of dates, or a catalog of monumental events. It is a rich mine of information—a vital source of knowledge, and understanding. “With the help of Congress, the American people and private industry,” said Dr. Billington, “we are building a national resource that has the potential to revitalize education for learners of all ages.”

<http://www.loc.gov>

The Library of Congress On-Line Resources

The entrance to the Library's on-line resources is the Library of Congress Web site offering seven points of entry, as follows:

<http://www.loc.gov/catalog/>

Using the Library

This popular site allows researchers to "visit" the Library of Congress without actually entering its doors. It provides access to the catalogs of bibliographic records for books and materials held by the Library, and to catalogs of other libraries. Each of the Library's collections and reading rooms is described, regulations are listed and maps and floor plans provided. Links to researchers, publishers, kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade (K-12) educators, resources for the blind and physically handicapped, and to other federal libraries, the Center for the Book and the Photoduplication Service are also found here.

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

THOMAS

THOMAS is the Library's public legislative information service. Introduced on January 5, 1995, the site currently receives 10 million "hits" per month. Due to its popularity, THOMAS has expanded to include the Bill Digest, which provides electronic links to the full text of all congressional legislation and the *Congressional Record* and committee reports. "Bills in the News" tracks major bills receiving floor action in the most recent Congress, searched by topic, popular or short title, or bill number/type. Major legislation enacted into law or under consideration during the current week is also listed.

<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/>

Copyright

This site provides information from the U.S. Copyright Office (*see* page 133), including registration forms and instructions.

<http://memory.loc.gov/>

American Memory

A rich historical resource and a major component of the National Digital Library Program, this site includes multimedia and text from the Library's Americana collections.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/index.html>

The Learning Page is a companion Web site to American Memory, designed for K-12 students, teachers, and librarians. It helps users navigate the American Memory historical collections, and includes activities, lesson ideas, teacher-created lesson plans, and other information and research tools for educators and students.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/today.html>

Today in History is a popular American Memory feature. It provides information on historical events for each day of the year and offers links to other sites pertaining to American history.

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov>

America’s Library

Launched on the Library’s 200th birthday, April 24 2000, the America’s Library Web site provides young people and families with an easy-to-use, multimedia online opportunity to learn about America’s past.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits>

Exhibitions

Portions of major exhibitions at the Library of Congress are digitized and presented in multimedia form on the Web. These include: *Revelations from the Russian Archives*; *The African-American Mosaic*; *Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture*; and *American Treasures in the Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/today/>

The Library Today

News and current events at the Library are continually updated on this site.



Panoramic maps are among the items researchers may find on the Library’s American Memory Web page. This map, sketched by C. J. Dyer, gives a bird’s-eye view of Phoenix, Arizona, as it was in 1885. Geography and Map Division.

Help and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This feature offers general information about the Library and answers the most common questions. (A printed FAQ brochure containing similar information is also available to Library visitors.)

below

Folk artist Howard Finster's imaginative depiction of the Library of Congress in the future, with the Road of Eternity in the foreground, was created in 1986. American Folklife Center.

opposite

In warm weather, the plaza in front of the Thomas Jefferson Building becomes a lunch, or break-time, oasis for Library staff, researchers, and tourists. (The James Madison Memorial Building can be seen, at right, beyond the Jefferson Building.) Public Affairs Office.

The Digital Library continues to build on the foundation it established during the 1990s, enabling the Library to make its burgeoning collections more accessible and to provide services to Congress, the nation, and researchers around the globe. "Our basic belief is that the new electronic superhighways are a public good and must do more than offer entertainment and high-priced information on demand to the well-to-do at home or in the office," Dr. Billington



said in a 1999 speech given at the Library. "If they do not do more, America will forfeit the technology's great potential for national renewal. . . I believe that the new technology, properly employed, can spur learning everywhere and provide vital enrichment to once isolated communities, libraries, and schools. This information superhighway can give us a new access to knowledge."



Researchers wishing to use Library collections in all twenty of the public reading rooms, or reference centers, and who request materials from closed stacks, will be asked for photo-identification showing a current address (e.g., valid driver's license, passport, or state-issued identification card). Those using the reading rooms must also obtain a free, Library-issued Reader Identification card by presenting their identification at the Reader Registration and Guidance station, Room LM-140 of the Madison Building (hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs.—8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Tues., Fri., Sat.—8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). After researchers complete a computerized self-registration process, Library staff check the information, take an identification photo, and issue a printed card (estimated time to complete registration—15 minutes). Reader Identification cards are valid for two years.

Reader Identification cards are issued to anyone eighteen years or older. High school students are allowed to use the Library *only if* their needs cannot be met through school, public, and university libraries or interlibrary loan. They must have a letter from their principal providing details about their project and be interviewed by a reference librarian, who makes the final decision.

Researchers can begin by visiting the Reference Assistance Room on the first floor of the Jefferson Building, adjacent to the Main Reading Room. (Some basic Library of Congress research information is also available at the Research Guidance desk in the Madison Building's Reader Registration Station.) Reference librarians assist in the use of catalogs and reference materials, make referrals to other libraries or bibliographic sources, and help locate materials. The Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Division offers a general research orientation on most Mondays, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 607 of the Jefferson Building.

Reserved facilities are available for those whose research requires extensive use of the Library. There are 700 study shelves for users of the Main Reading Room who wish to hold a limited number of books for an extended time. Regular book deliveries are made direct to the shelves. Application for a study shelf should be made to the Research Facilities Officer in the Main Reading Room.

Finding Aids and Other Divisional Research Guidance

Researchers can visit reading rooms that have specific catalogs, both electronic and printed, and reference sources. There are *finding aids*, including indexes, bibliographies, and specialized card files, to help researchers locate items such as photographs, letters, music scores, or maps within a specialized collection. For example, the Manuscript Division Reading Room has written guides to the contents and scope of its largest individual collections; the Prints and Photographs Division Reading Room maintains browsable vertical files containing photographic prints or photocopied images from the most in-demand collections while also offering printed finding aids to various division collections; and the Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room has card files describing individual collections.

Each reading room has a Web page providing detailed information on its collections and services. Public hours vary: some reading rooms have evening hours on given days. Requests for closed stack materials must be made at least one hour, and sometimes two hours, before closing. Most reading rooms restrict items that can be brought into the room; lockers and/or cloakrooms are available. Laptop computers are permitted in the Main Reading Room and several others, and most reading rooms have self-service, coin-operated and debit card-operated copiers. Change machines and public telephones are also available. The Library aims to make each research visit as efficient, useful, and rewarding as possible.

Library of Congress Public Hours (as of February 2000)

Public tours are conducted from the Thomas Jefferson Building Visitor's Entrance Monday through Saturday, at 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, and 4:00

Buildings	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
James Madison Building	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-6:30p
Thomas Jefferson Building: Visitors' Entrance (1st St.)	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	10:00a-5:30p * Tours: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00
Thomas Jefferson Building: Researchers' Entrance (2nd St.)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:30p	8:30a-5:30p
John Adams Building	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:30p	8:30a-5:30p
Exhibitions	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Madison Building Exhibitions	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-6:30p
Jefferson Building Exhibitions	10:00a-5:00p	10:00a-5:00p	10:00a-5:00p	10:00a-5:00p	10:00a-5:00p	10:00a-5:00p
Sales Shops	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Madison & Jefferson Sales Shops	9:30a-5:00p	9:30a-5:00p	9:30a-5:00p	9:30a-5:00p	9:30a-5:00p	9:30a-5:00p
Cafeterias	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Madison Cafeteria (LM 625)	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-3:30p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-3:30p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-3:30p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-3:30p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-3:30p	closed
Madison Coffee Shop (Ground Floor)	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	8:00a-2:00p
Adams Coffee Shop (First Floor)	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	9:00a-11:00a 12:30p-4:00p	closed

For hours of Library Reading Rooms, see <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/hours.html>

* Note – All Library of Congress buildings are closed to the public on Sundays and Federal Holidays

Library of Congress Public Reading Room Hours

* Note - All Library of Congress buildings are closed to the public on Sundays and Federal Holidays

Building Abbreviations and Codes: LA = Adams Building | LJ = Jefferson Building | LM = Madison Building | § By appointment only

Reading Room / Center	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
African & Middle Eastern (LJ 220)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Asian (LJ 150)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Business Reference Services (LA 508)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Children’s Literature Center (LJ 100)	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	Closed
Computer Catalog Centers (LJ 139/LA 500)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Copyright Office (LM 401)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
European (LJ 250)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Folklife (LJ G49)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Geography & Map (LM B01)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Hispanic (LJ 240)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Law Library (LM 201)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Local History & Genealogy (LJ G42)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Main (LJ 100)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Manuscript (LM 101)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Microform (LJ 139B)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Motion Picture & Television (LM 336)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
— Viewing Facilities §	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	8:30a-4:30p	Closed
Newspaper & Current Periodical (LM 133)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Performing Arts (Music) (LM 113)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p
Photoduplication Services (LA 120)	8:30a-4:45p	8:30a-4:45p	8:30a-4:45p	8:30a-4:45p	8:30a-4:45p	Closed
Prints & Photographs (LM 339)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Rare Book & Special Collections (LJ 239)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Recorded Sound Reference Center (LM 113)	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	Closed
Listening Facilities	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p	§
Science (LA 508)	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-9:30p	8:30a-5:00p	8:30a-5:00p

Requesting Closed-Stack Materials

For delivery of materials from closed stack collections, requests typically must be made at least one hour, and sometimes two hours, before the reading rooms close. Details are available in the reading rooms and on their home pages.

Reference Collections

Each reading room also has a reference collection that is openly available during reading room hours.

Reader Registration and Guidance Station Opening Hours

Mon., Wed., Thurs.—8:30a-9:00p
Tues., Fri., Sat.—8:30a-4:30p

Research Serendipity

The Library collections celebrate the scope of human creativity and experience. Therefore, although materials are divided and organized by subject matter, format, age, and other criteria, and reference staff and finding aids are on hand to help the researcher locate what is needed, serendipity, too, plays a role. A certain reference, a chance discovery, often propels the researcher into a deeper search of the Library's myriad resources than anticipated. Mention of a favorite song in a handwritten letter in the Manuscript Division might lead to a quest for the sheet music in the Music Division. The explanation for images on an ancient chart in the Geography and Map Division might lie in books housed in the Asian or European Divisions. One can read first editions of poems by Emily Dickinson or Walt Whitman in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division Reading Room, then visit the Manuscript Division Reading Room to examine drafts in the poets' own hands.

A single thematic collection donated to or purchased by the Library often finds a home in several divisions—the Marian S. Carson Collection of Americana, for example, includes manuscript materials, rare books, and images, and the collection of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) encompasses both documents and photographs. The richness of its holdings and potential for cross-fertilization across disciplinary boundaries make working at the Library an intellectual challenge and a source of surprise and delight. Researchers should never hesitate to ask reference staff for both assistance and ideas about additional resources.

Although the Library of Congress was established in 1800, the office of Librarian was not created until 1802. The law creating the office stipulated that the Librarian of Congress was to be appointed by the president—not by the Congress. In fact, Congress had no formal role in the appointment process until 1897, when the Senate gained the privilege of confirming the president's selection. No special qualifications are prescribed by law for the job of Librarian of Congress. Nor is a term of office specified, although in the twentieth century the precedent has been established that a Librarian of Congress is appointed for life. The office of the Librarian of Congress carried little formal authority until 1897, when by law the Librarian was given sole responsibility for making the institution's rules and regulations and appointing its staff. As of 2000, there have been thirteen Librarians:

John J. Beckley (1802–1807)

A political ally of President Thomas Jefferson and the first clerk of the House of Representatives, Beckley was appointed Librarian by President Jefferson on January 29, 1802. His salary as Librarian could not exceed two dollars a day. Beckley died on April 8, 1807.

Patrick Magruder (1807–1815)

A local politician and former congressman, Magruder was appointed Librarian by President Jefferson on November 7, 1807—ten days after being named clerk of the House of Representatives. He served in the posts concurrently. On August 24, 1814, the British captured Washington and burned the U.S. Capitol, including the Library of Congress, which was in the Capitol's north wing. After a congressional investigation about the loss of the Library and the use of Library funds, on January 28, 1815, Magruder resigned his position of clerk of the House and, by inference, the office of Librarian of Congress.

George Watterston (1815–1829)

Novelist and journalist George Watterston was appointed Librarian of Congress by President James Madison on March 21, 1815. The capital's leading man of letters, Watterston was the Librarian who received Jefferson's library in 1815 and adopted Jefferson's basic classification scheme. A partisan Whig, he was replaced in 1829 by a Democrat appointed by newly elected President Andrew Jackson.

John Silva Meehan (1829–1861)

President Andrew Jackson appointed Democrat John Silva Meehan, a local printer and publisher, Librarian of Congress on May 28, 1829. He continued as Librarian until May 1861, when Abraham Lincoln replaced him with one of his own political supporters, John G. Stephenson.

John G. Stephenson (1861–1864)

Appointed Librarian by President Lincoln on May 24, 1861, John G. Stephenson was a physician from Terre Haute, Indiana. An ardent bookman and a Republican, Stephenson served as Librarian for only three years. He resigned on December 31, 1864.

Ainsworth Rand Spofford (1864–1897)

Assistant Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford was elevated to the Librarian's office when President Lincoln appointed him to replace John G. Stephenson on December 31, 1864. In 1896, on the eve of the move into the Library's first separate building, the leaders of the American Library Association made it clear that they hoped the 71-year-old Spofford would step aside in favor of a younger and more progressive professional librarian. On June 30, 1897, President William McKinley nominated John Russell Young to be Librarian of Congress; the next day, Young named Spofford as Chief Assistant Librarian, an important job that Spofford held until his death.

John Russell Young (1897–1899)

President William McKinley appointed former journalist and diplomat John Russell Young Librarian of Congress on June 30, 1897. He became the first Librarian to be confirmed by the Senate, following the reorganization of the Library approved on February 18, 1897, which had strengthened the office of the Librarian and required such confirmation of appointees. Young established a new professionalism at the Library, hiring many key future leaders. Young died in office on January 17, 1899.

Herbert Putnam (1899–1939)

At the urging of the American Library Association, President McKinley appointed Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Boston Public Library and ALA president-elect, as Librarian of Congress on March 13, 1899. Putnam was the first experienced librarian to direct the Library of Congress and made American libraries a new and

important constituency for the “Nation’s Library.” In 1938, Putnam tendered his resignation to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The position of Librarian Emeritus was created on June 20, 1938, but the president asked Putnam to stay on as Librarian until a successor was found. Putnam assumed the office of Librarian Emeritus on October 1, 1939, the day before his successor assumed his duties.

***Archibald MacLeish* (1939–1944)**

On May 11, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt endorsed Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter’s suggestion that poet, writer, and lawyer Archibald MacLeish, “a scholarly man of letters,” would make a good Librarian of Congress because the Library “is not merely a library.” MacLeish’s nomination proved controversial. Some opposed his appointment because they believed he had pro-Communist leanings; others because he was not “the ablest library administrator available.” However, the Senate confirmed the nomination, and on July 10, 1939, MacLeish took the oath of office as ninth Librarian of Congress. He resigned on December 19, 1944, to become assistant secretary of state.

***Luther H. Evans* (1945–1953)**

President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, without having nominated MacLeish’s successor. On June 18, 1945, President Harry Truman nominated Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans to be Librarian of Congress. A political scientist and an experienced library administrator, Evans took the oath of office on June 30, 1945. On July 1, 1953, he was elected director-general of UNESCO and submitted his resignation as Librarian of Congress, effective July 5.

***L. Quincy Mumford* (1954–1974)**

On April 22, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower nominated L. Quincy Mumford, director of the Cleveland Public Library and president-elect of the American Library Association, to be Librarian of Congress. Mumford became the first Librarian of Congress to have graduated from a library school (B.S. degree in library science, Columbia University, 1929). He retired on December 31, 1974.

***Daniel J. Boorstin* (1975–1987)**

On June 30, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford nominated author and historian Daniel J. Boorstin, senior historian and former director of the National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian

Institution, to be Librarian of Congress. The Senate confirmed the nomination without debate, and Boorstin took the oath of office on November 12, 1975. He retired in 1987 in order to devote more time to writing and lecturing and became Librarian of Congress Emeritus on August 4, 1987.

James H. Billington (1987–)

President Ronald Reagan nominated historian James H. Billington to be Librarian of Congress on April 17, 1987. Formerly director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at the Smithsonian Institution, Billington took the oath of office in the Library's Great Hall on September 14, 1987.

Far from being simply a storehouse of knowledge, the Library of Congress is active in the cultural life of the United States. It is not only a center for musical performances, but also a forum for readings, conferences, and symposia devoted to the majesty and music of the artfully spoken and written word. Poetry has been central to the Library’s literary programs since Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam named the first Consultant in Poetry in English to help him strengthen and exploit the Library’s poetry collections. Some of the greatest figures in American literature have served as Consultant in Poetry. In 1986 that title was expanded, with congressional approval, to Poet Laureate, Consultant in Poetry, to reflect the importance of this post to the literary life of the nation.

Consultants in Poetry in English

Joseph Auslander	1937-41	William Meredith	1978-80
Allen Tate	1943-44	Maxine Kumin	1981-82
Robert Penn Warren	1944-45	Anthony Hecht	1982-84
Louise Bogan	1945-46	Robert Fitzgerald	1984-85
Karl Shapiro	1946-47	Gwendolyn Brooks	1985-86
Robert Lowell	1947-48		
Leonie Adams	1948-49	Poets Laureate, Consultants in Poetry	
Elizabeth Bishop	1949-50		
Conrad Aiken	1950-52		
(vacant 1952-56)		Robert Penn Warren	1986-87
Randall Jarrell	1956-57	Richard Wilbur	1987-88
Robert Frost	1958-59	Howard Nemerov	1988-90
Richard Eberhart	1959-61	Mark Strand	1990-91
Louis Untermeyer	1961-63	Joseph Brodsky	1991-92
Howard Nemerov	1963-64	Mona Van Duyn	1992-93
Reed Whittemore	1964-65	Rita Dove	1993-95
Stephen Spender	1965-66	Robert Hass	1995-97
James Dickey	1966-68	Robert Pinsky	1997-
William Jay Smith	1968-70		2000
William E. Stafford	1970-71		
Josephine Jacobsen	1971-73		
Daniel Hoffman	1973-74		
Stanley Kunitz	1974-76		
Robert Hayden	1976-78		

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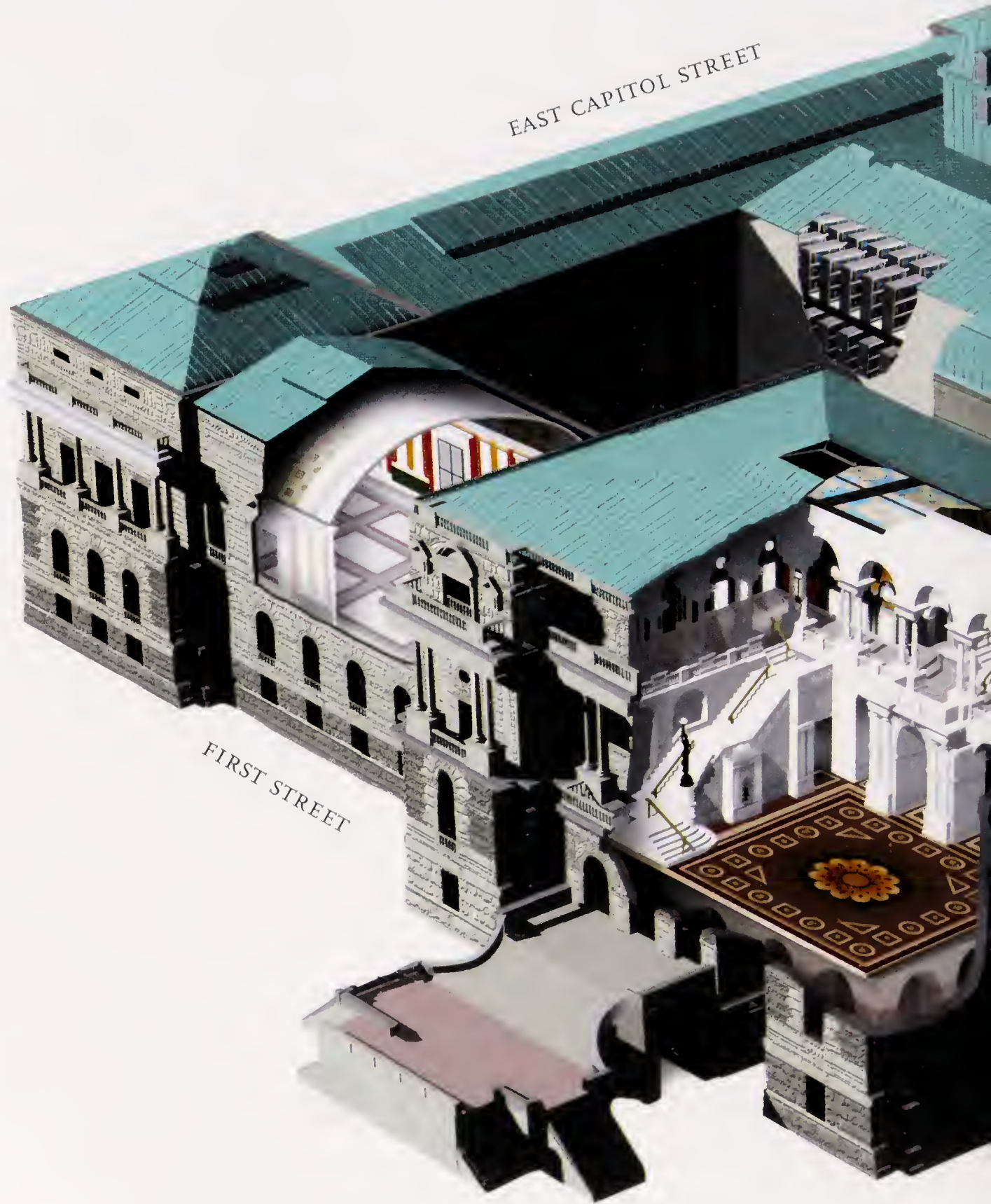
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Schematic Diagram
of the Thomas Jefferson
Building





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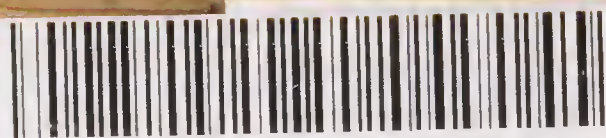
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